

**GLOBAL AFFILIATE
FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
(GACS) INT'L NETWORK**

**BEATITUDES
AWARD
BY-LAWS**

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BEATITUDES AWARD BY-LAWS

Junior Scholarship Award (JSS 1- JSS 3)

Senior Scholarship Award (SS 1 – SS 2)

“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, ²and He began to teach them, saying:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you”. – Matthew 5:1-12

PURPOSE

The purpose of the GACS Beatitudes Award shall be to foster excellence in achievement by students in member schools to the end that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shall be glorified. Each student will be encouraged to make maximum use of his God-given talents through service to the Lord in his school. The GACS Beatitudes Award will recognize students who in the opinion of their teachers have attained an above average level in character development and achievement.

ORGANIZATION

The GACS Beatitudes Award program is available only to those schools who are members of GACS in good standing. Each member of GACS that has JSS 1 – JSS 3 and/or SS 1 – SS 2 is encouraged to form a GACS Junior and Senior Beatitudes Chapter. Schools form chapters by submitting an application to the GACS office. Membership is on an annual basis and is continued by remaining a member in good standing of GACS and paying the annual fee for each chapter at the beginning of each school year. A certificate recognizing the existence of a local chapter will be issued by GACS and should be displayed by the member school in a prominent location.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students nominated for membership in the GACS Beatitudes Award must in the opinion of their teachers have demonstrated above average qualities in each of the following areas:

Scholarship

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

Leadership

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in work, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (I Timothy 4:12)

Service

“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.” (I Corinthians 9:19)

Honesty

“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.” (II Corinthians 8:21)

Cooperation

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)

Responsibility

“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Matthew 25:23)

Humility

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.” (Proverbs 15:33)

Submissiveness

“Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said, I, Here am I, send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)

Consideration

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Philippians 12:3)

Membership in the GACS Beatitudes Scholarship is open to all students in grades seven through twelve whose schools have a local chapter and

- (1) who personally meet the standards enumerated above,
- (2) have been enrolled in a member school with a local GACS Beatitudes Award chapter for at least one semester immediately prior to their nomination,
- (3) who have a credit or better in every subject for which a letter grade is given for the grading period immediately prior to their nomination (exceptions: a student may have a maximum of one C in the grading period prior to his nomination if that grade is balanced with an A in a course carrying the same or higher unit value); an 85 average or better is required for students in schools that do not use letter grades,

Nominations for membership should be made by schools once a year. Membership rosters are to be submitted to the GACS office during the first semester of each year on forms provided. All forms require verification from the principal that all students nominated meet the minimum standards established by the Association.

Students are nominated for membership only once for each society. However, to remain in good standing, the minimum academic average for initial

membership must be maintained. Students whose academic averages fall below the minimum required for two consecutive grading periods are placed on an inactive status. They are automatically returned to an active status the next grading period in which their grades are at the minimum level.

Memberships in the Junior and Senior Beatitudes are separate and distinct from one another. Separate nomination is required for each. Students who are elected to the Junior Beatitudes do not automatically become members of the Senior Honor Society upon promotion to the tenth grade.

Any student who is a member of the Junior or Senior GACS Beatitudes who transfers to another member school that has a local chapter is automatically a member of the chapter at the new school.

Students suspended from school for any reason (unless they are later found to be innocent of the offense) are not eligible for membership in the GACS Beatitudes for at least one semester after the suspension, and if their suspension occurs after they have been elected to a chapter, they are automatically suspended from the chapter for at least one semester. This may be a longer period according to the decision of the school. Students expelled from school for any reason (unless they are later found to be innocent) are not eligible for membership in the GACS Beatitudes at any GACS school. If their expulsion occurs after they have been elected to a chapter, they are automatically expelled from the chapter and shall not be eligible for re-admission.

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Local chapters should elect officers including president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. It is recommended that members of the chapter be given opportunities to perform meaningful service for the school. The duties of the officers and service opportunities will be at the discretion of the local school.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL/INSTITUTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year a number of graduating seniors (usually three) who are members of the GACS Beatitudes will be awarded Christian school or higher institution scholarships. Each student selected will be given a scholarship toward tuition at a Christian school or institution in an amount to be determined on an annual basis by the GACS Executive Committee. These students will be chosen from nominations submitted by local chapters. The scholarship

recipients will be selected by a committee whose members are not affiliated with any school submitting nominations for the awards.

Each chapter may nominate one graduating senior who represents the ideals of the GACS Beatitudes and is committed to attending a Christian college. The nomination is to be entered on a form to be provided by the GACS office. The Executive Committee will have the final judgment on the acceptability of the college to be attended. The scholarship amount will be sent directly to the college upon notification of official acceptance. If, for any reason, the student does not attend the college stated in the application or another Christian college approved by the Executive Committee, the scholarship amount is to be returned to Global Affiliate for Christian Schools (GACS) International Network.

PLEDGE

The following pledge should be administered to new members at the GACS Beatitudes induction ceremony and used at other appropriate times during the school year:

I promise that with God's help I shall endeavor to uphold the principles of the Global Associate of Christian Schools Beatitudes.

I will do my best in academic achievement.

I will exemplify Christian leadership through service.

I will have a cooperative spirit and be submissive to those who have authority over me.

I will be faithful in carrying out the responsibilities which are given to me.

I will serve with humility, realizing that talents and abilities are gifts through the grace of God.

I will be honest, considerate, and fair in my dealings with others.

Appreciating all of the blessings of God and the freedom we enjoy in our great nation, I will strive to be a good citizen and a good testimony for my family, my school, and the Lord Jesus Christ.