



American Harp Society, Inc. Chapter Ambassador Awards Program Guidelines for Chapters

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of the Chapter Ambassador Awards program is to inspire student engagement with the AHS national events; to promote community; and to empower recipients to create engagement opportunities within local harp communities.

This matching awards program is an opportunity for the national organization to encourage and support chapter initiatives that promote student participation in AHS national events while simultaneously engaging the student ambassadors in learning about and participating in activities at the national level.

Chapter Ambassador Awards Application

Each chapter may nominate up to 3 student members for awards consideration.

- Nominations are due by October 1st annually.
- Form is available at:
<https://www.harpsociety.org/chapter-ambassador-program>
- Eligible applicants will be up to age 21 as of October 1st in the year of application.
- The AHS, Inc. will match chapter funds up to \$500 per student to cover costs associated with attending the designated national event.
- Award recipients must have a current active membership in the chapter sponsoring their matching award.
- Award recipients will be asked to sign an award contract, in which they will agree to:
 - o Register for and attend the next scheduled national event
 - o Complete and document a local community engagement project.
 - o Submit a written paragraph and project photos documenting their experience for e-news, website, and archival purposes.

FAQs For Chapters

- Individual chapters may develop their own criteria for the selection of student nominees at the local level.
- Chapter Ambassadors will be paired with a mentor from their chapter or region. Mentors will provide support and assistance for the CA throughout their term in the completion of their project.
- Chapters are strongly encouraged to provide oversight and assistance to students who choose

to apply to the Chapter Ambassador Awards program.

- Chapters must submit proof/pledge of local funds prior to students being nominated for the Chapter Ambassador program.
- Chapters may raise funds through legal means and in any manner appropriate for their chapter.
- Chapters are encouraged to include student nominees in the fundraising process as a means of community involvement and investment in the Chapter Ambassador Awards program.
- Chapter award funds may be appropriated by designation of existing chapter funds; gathered through fundraising activities such as but not limited to: play-a-thons, practice-a-thons, donations at chapter concerts, donations at performances, donations at pre-concert performances, student busking (with proper legal permissions and parental supervision), used music or harp accessories sales at chapter meetings, and/or designated gifts or sponsorships at the local level.
- Disbursement and oversight of funds to selected students will be the responsibility of the individual chapter. Any matching funds from the AHS must be used solely for expenses related to attending the designated AHS national event. In the event the student is unable to attend, or is unable to complete the terms of the Chapter Ambassador Awards contract, the chapter will be liable for returning the amount of the unused matching funds to the AHS.
- Matching funds are not guaranteed and are only available if the student is accepted by the national selection committee as a Chapter Ambassador.
- In the event that a student is not selected as a Chapter Ambassador, and therefore does not receive matching funds, the chapter may elect to award a chapter scholarship to individual student members for attendance at the AHS national event. While these students receive recognition at the chapter/regional level. The AHS welcomes and encourages any and all support from local chapters that encourages and incentivizes student participation in AHS national events.