

**Luella High School
Governor's Honors Program
nominee's pre-application**

Nominee's Name: Example

Subject Area: Visual Arts

The interview team will consider carefully the information given below in evaluating this nomination form. Be thorough in your answers.

1. Describe your interest in your nomination area.

Art has been my passion since my grandmother, grandfather, and dog passed away all in a five-month period when I was in the sixth grade. I was emotionally distraught and needed somewhere to turn. I found some of my grandmother's old paintings suppose when cleaning out her house; amongst the paints and canvases I found an unfinished piece of hers. I attempted to finish it but ended up making it worse and told myself one day I would be able to fix it; from there, I taught myself how to draw, striving to build on my abilities for her memory and my future. Art has been my way of expressing what I feel and that which cannot be communicated by ordinary means.

I am currently enrolled in Advanced Selected Studio art class (designed around the GHP portfolio) at my high school that was created for several students like myself who have an interest in pursuing an art-related career, who want to develop an Advanced Placement Portfolio (a year before taking AP Studio Art), and who, like myself, chosen to take high school art classes at Luella High during our eighth-grade year. This course allows us the freedom to explore media, research artists, and learn from the community rather than just from classroom instruction. This type of learning is conducive to artistic exploration and is similar to the experience one would gain from GHP. Although I am only a sophomore, I have been taking high school art classes for three years now and feel that this experience has set me on my path to not only GHP but also my career as an artist/architect.

I know that GHP would enrich my learning experience, giving me knowledge to share with my peers, teachers, and community. I have learned that the art process is more than simply expressing myself. It paves the way for me to communicate my thoughts and feelings in a way that I could not do with just words. I am still working on finishing my grandmother's painting and hope that my GHP experience will further my skills to do so.

2. What have you already accomplished in your nomination area beyond regular classroom work?

Outside of school, I have created numerous artworks as side projects that were not assignments. These were usually more personal works that tied directly to emotions or events in my life. Also, I have designed various patches and t-shirts for the Boy Scouts of America. A few hundred people in local Boy Scout chapters and councils use these items.

Aside from just creating art outside of school, I am the National Art Honor Society president of my school's chapter. I play an active role in both Art Club and NAHS meetings, which take place both before and after school twice a week. Last year as a part of Art Club, we formed a group to carry out a school-wide project to paint the entire periodic table on ceiling tiles of the hall near the science labs. This task became a far larger project than we originally thought. By the end of the year, I had painted most of the tiles myself and thus it became my mission. I felt the project needed to be completed for it was created with the intention of helping students academically and making art more than just some something pretty to look at. Now, the teachers, students, and administrators in our building can see that art serves a necessary function—not to mention the feeling that comes over one to see a difficult task completed. It was truly an accomplishment for me.

I help with programs around my community like Arts Fest, a county-wide program in which Henry County Schools' art programs/teachers/clubs/organizations (over 40 schools in total) display different forms of art that is interactive for the community. These art forms include but are not limited to studio art (where the kids create at creation station), drama and dance performances, and musical arts (both child and performance-generated). Arts Alive, another program with which I am involved allows high school students to go to the Luella Elementary School in order to help with different programs that expose the children to art at a young age. On top of this, I have served as an art teacher's assistant at Luella Elementary School over the past few years when needed. Our cluster of schools (elementary, middle, and high) encourages crossover instruction at all levels and ages. I was introduced to high school art education at in eighth grade, and I want to help provide those same opportunities for other young artists.

3. Why do you believe you should be selected as a GHP Finalist?

Again, art is my passion. I love it and will take every opportunity to learn more about it. I have focused my life into art and have been encouraged by life experiences to pursue art with ardor. I have concentrated my emotions into my works, and each is a symbolic representation of thoughts, feelings, and life experience. It is the one steady influence in my life. I have given my time and support to this defining endeavor. I've spent countless hours on art, whether it be in my own projects, school, or service. Any opportunity I have to further extend my knowledge in art would be fantastic. Aside from being open to new ideas and techniques, I feel I could also offer techniques and ideas to others at GHP. My art is not just me drawing because I like it or because I'm good at it, but it is what I feel and believe. It is meaningful, and each piece is an embodiment of my beliefs. It is the most important idea in my life—the ability to express myself. I believe in Thomas Merton's assertion that "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

4. Have you decided on a career? If so, tell about it.

I plan on pursuing a career in the architecture field. My love of art will contribute greatly to me being an architect by giving me the knowledge of aesthetic appeals. And, because I am also quite skilled in math, I believe that this career choice would offer me a combination of my two central skills, thus allowing me to complete projects I love and feel passionate about. Because drafting is a central part of my chosen profession, art gives me yet another advantage. I would be able to render drafts easily—and I am no stranger to the process of turning a sketch into something larger. Architecture is an ideal profession for me.

5. Make any statement in support of your nomination, which you think has not been covered elsewhere on your form.

Aside from being involved in art, I am a dedicated and committed person. I am an active member of the Boy Scouts of America and currently hold multiple leadership positions. The first of these is Senior Patrol Leader, which is the head of a troop. Boy Scouts is a youth-run organization, and in my role, I plan and carry out events and trips for my troop throughout the year. I mediate disagreements between boys in my troop, all requiring hard work, public speaking, organization, and communication. I am in the process of working toward my rank as Eagle Scout, earning 41 Merit Badges including Art, Photography, Personal Management, and Communication. Also, I have attended many leadership seminars through Boy Scouts that have given me many leadership skills. While devoting myself to art and Scouts, I am also a straight A student, taking three AP courses and three honors classes this year. Last year when I was a freshman, I was the only student in our school to earn a 5 on the AP Human Geography Exam. My weighted class rank is 8 out of more than 450 students. My varied accomplishments are all tribute to my dedication and passion for not only art but the love of life and humanity, which stems from a tragic event in my life. It is interesting how one is led down a path by life events.

Courses taken in area of nomination (grades 9-11):

- Comprehensive Art
- Drawing and Painting

- Selected Studio Visual Art
- AP Studio Drawing

List awards and honors won by the student in grades 9-11 in the area of nomination.

- 2nd place, Gordon College Academic Bowl competition in Studio Art and Drawing (fall 2012)
- President, National Art Honor Society (2012-13)
- Best in Drawing Award (spring 2012)
- Best in Drafting and Architecture (spring 2012)

List awards and honors won by the student in grades 9-11 in areas other than the area of nomination.

- A Honor Roll
- Best Student in AP Human Geography (Georgia AP Day celebration)
- Leadership Henry program (leadership development training)
- National Youth Leadership Training
- Boy Scout Senior Patrol Leader
- Life Scout
- Vigil Honor, Order of the Arrow
- Order of the Arrow Lodge Secretary

List extracurricular activities of students in grades 9-11.

- Art Club
- Secretary of Order of the Arrow (Boy Scouts National Honor Society)
- Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society)
- Junior Varsity Math Team
- Academic Team