



The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people from across the U.S. and Canada. Established in 2001 by author T. A. Barron, the Barron Prize annually honors 25 outstanding young leaders ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive impact on people, their communities, and the environment. Fifteen top winners each receive \$10,000 to support their service work or higher education.

Since its inception, the Barron Prize has awarded more than half a million dollars to hundreds of young heroes who represent the great diversity of America. The Prize has won the support of Girl Scouts of the USA, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, The Wilderness Society, and National Youth Leadership Council, among other organizations.

“Nothing is more inspiring than stories about heroic people who have truly made a difference to the world,” says Barron. “And we need our heroes today more than ever. Not celebrities, but heroes – people whose character can inspire us all. That is the purpose of the Gloria Barron Prize: to shine the spotlight on these amazing young people so that their stories will inspire others.”

## **ANNUAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 15**

Completed applications, including three required Letters of Recommendation, must be submitted online by 5:00 pm MT

Visit our website to read past winners' bios and learn about their inspiring work!

[www.barronprize.org](http://www.barronprize.org)

## **SAMPLE ONLY – APPLICATIONS ARE ONLY ACCEPTED ONLINE**

---

# **GLORIA BARRON PRIZE FOR YOUNG HEROES APPLICATION INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**The Barron Prize welcomes applications from public-spirited young people who are, on our April 15 deadline:**

- between the ages of 8 and 18 (not yet age 19).
- permanent residents of and currently residing in the U.S.A. or Canada.
- currently working on an inspiring service project or have done so within the past 12 months.
- working as an individual to lead their service work. The Barron Prize does not accept applications from large groups of young people.

The Barron Prize does not discriminate against its applicants based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

## **ANNUAL APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE**

- Early January: Online application system opens.
- By April 15: Application Deadline: All required materials, including three Letters of Recommendation, **must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. MT.**
- By Sept. 30: Winners will be announced. All applicants will be notified via email.

## **WHAT WINNERS RECEIVE**

\$10,000 Cash Award  
Recognition Gifts  
Young Heroes Materials  
Networking Opportunities  
Media Coverage

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Our judges use the following criteria in choosing winners:**

1. Winners must have organized and led an extraordinary service activity which has clearly benefited other people or the planet we share. The service activity must have been

initiated and motivated primarily by the winner himself or herself. The service activity cannot have been done solely to complete an assignment for school or work.

2. Winners must have:
  - demonstrated heroic character qualities such as courage, compassion, dedication, generosity, perseverance, and high moral purpose.
  - shown initiative, tenacity, and unselfishness in pursuit of their goals.
  - accomplished something with inspirational value—something that could inspire others to make a difference.
  - done more than survive a difficult personal challenge. Their heroism must have made an impact on the world beyond themselves.
3. Winners may or may not have received recognition for their heroic work. Fame itself shall not have been a motivating factor.

**Please read these requirements carefully before you begin the application process.**

1. Applications (including three required Letters of Recommendation) **must be completed and submitted online** by our deadline of **5:00 p.m. MT on April 15** each year, when the system will automatically close.
2. We do not accept applications via fax, email, U.S. mail, or any other carrier.
3. Please contact us well in advance of our deadline for any technical assistance you anticipate needing. **We do not accept applications after 5 p.m. MT on April 15.**
4. Applications must include a letter from the Lead Reference. A Lead Reference is simply an adult advocate who has solid knowledge of the applicant's heroic activities. Examples of Lead References include teachers, librarians, school counselors, youth service officials, and religious leaders.
5. Members of the applicant's family cannot act as the Lead Reference nor write the other two Letters of Recommendation.
6. Letters of Recommendation must be submitted by references using our online system. Applicants cannot upload letters.
7. All required application materials, including the Lead Reference letter and two Additional Letters of Recommendation, must be included at the time of submission. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
8. Contents of the application are considered public information once submitted and should not include private or privileged information.

*By submitting an entry in the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, each applicant acknowledges reading and understanding all the selection criteria and application requirements published on the prize's website and agrees to observe them. Further, each entrant acknowledges and agrees that as a condition of receiving the prize, the selected individual will cooperate in publicizing the Barron Prize and will grant rights in the applicant's materials to the Barron Prize.*

**Questions? Email Carolyn at [admin@barronprize.org](mailto:admin@barronprize.org)**

## **LIST OF MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR SUBMISSION**

Our online application requires that you submit:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Project Summary (250 word limit)
3. Project Essay (1,000 word limit)
4. Letter from the Lead Reference
5. Two Additional Letters of Recommendation
6. One color photo of the applicant

Scroll through the application for details about the above required materials. Note that an optional section at the end of the application allows you to upload or provide links to Supplemental Materials. These are things such as articles and videos that will enhance the judges' understanding of your project.

## **APPLICATION FORM**

### **SAMPLE ONLY – APPLICATIONS ARE ONLY ACCEPTED ONLINE**

Your name and other contact info. will be pulled from the Profile you created when you first set up your WiseHive account.

**Project Website Address (if applicable):**

**Project Facebook Page (if applicable):**

**Project YouTube Address (if applicable):**

**Project Twitter Account (if applicable):**

**Project Instagram Account (if applicable):**

**Type of Project:**

Please select either Humanitarian or Environmental depending on the focus of your project.

**Project Title and Short Description:**

Please limit to 50 words.

**How did you hear about the Barron Prize?**

Please select one option from the dropdown list.

**Name of School Applicant is Currently Attending:**

**Current Year in School:**

**School Mailing Address:**

**School City:**

**School State:**

**School Province (if a resident of Canada):**

**Zip Code or Canadian Postal Code:**

**School Country:**

**School Phone Number:**

## **SUMMARY AND ESSAY FROM THE APPLICANT**

### **Project Summary**

Your summary should not exceed 250 words. Feel free to include any personal challenges you have overcome.

Using the dropdown box, choose to include the Project Summary by (1) copying or typing it in the appropriate text box/text format or (2) uploading a digital file (.PDF, .Doc, or .Docx). After your selection, a text box or an upload field will appear.

### **Project Essay**

Your essay should not exceed a total of 1,000 words and must address the following three questions:

- What inspired you to organize this service activity?
- What did you hope to accomplish by leading this service activity, and what did you actually accomplish? If the two are different, then why?
- What have you learned from the experience—both about yourself and about the world?

Using the dropdown box, choose to include the Project Essay by (1) copying or typing it in the appropriate text box/text format or (2) uploading a digital file (.PDF, .Doc, or .Docx). After your selection, a text box or an upload field will appear.

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicants are required to include three Letters of Recommendation – one from a Lead Reference plus two Additional Letters of Recommendation. A Lead Reference is someone who knows your service work well and can answer specific questions about it.

Applicants request their letters from recommenders using a separate form found on the application's Homepage. Recommenders then submit their letters directly and confidentially through the online application system.

**It is the applicant's responsibility to track letters using the online system to make sure they have been received by the application deadline. The system will not allow you to submit your application unless all three letters have been received. Late submissions are not accepted.**

Once you request your three letters using the form on the application's Homepage, the system will send an email to your recommenders that includes the following guidelines:

### GUIDELINES FOR THE LEAD REFERENCE LETTER

A Lead Reference is someone who knows the applicant's service work well and can answer specific questions about it.

- A family member cannot serve as the Lead Reference.
- The letter should not exceed 1,000 words.
- The letter should answer the following five questions:
  1. What is the relationship between the Lead Reference and the applicant?
  2. What service activity did the applicant perform and what was the applicant's specific leadership role in that activity?
  3. What obstacles and/or challenges did the applicant overcome while leading this service activity?
  4. What were the verifiable results of the applicant's service activity?
  5. How has the applicant demonstrated heroic character qualities such as courage, compassion, dedication, generosity, and perseverance?

### GUIDELINES FOR THE TWO ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Letters should verify the applicant's service achievements.
- Letters should attest to the applicant's general character and include how he/she has demonstrated heroic character qualities such as courage, compassion, dedication, generosity, and perseverance.
- Letters should include how the recommender knows the applicant.
- Letters should not exceed 500 words.
- Family members cannot provide Letters of Recommendation.

## PHOTOS

Please upload at least one color photo of yourself. It is ideal if you can upload a close-up of yourself as well as one or two other photos of you involved in your project work (for a maximum of three (3) photos allowed). Our system will only accept .JPG files.

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Please list and provide links or uploads for up to five (5) total Supplemental Materials (e.g., media articles) that you'd like our judges to review. For videos, please provide links rather than upload video files.

### Supplemental Materials List:

Provide a numerical list of your uploaded Supplemental Material. Example: 1. Newspaper article - name of newspaper 2. Additional letter of reference - from Jane Doe, etc. You may also include links to websites or other social media.

## SAVING AND SUBMITTING

- You can click "Save Draft" to save your work if you are not ready to submit the entire application. Once you have completed all required fields and are ready to submit, click "Mark Complete." You will be redirected to the previous page where you can "Submit" your application if your Letters of Recommendation section reads "Complete." You will be able to click "Edit" to make any final changes before submission. Once you "Submit," you will not be able to make any changes or additions.
- The system will not allow you to submit your application until it has received your three (3) required Letters of Recommendation (one from your Lead Reference plus two Additional Letters of Recommendation). The system will not allow you to submit any materials after the application deadline.
- Your application has not been submitted/received by us until you select the green "Submit" button on the previous page.
- If your application was complete and successfully submitted, you will immediately see confirmation to the left of the "Submit" button. You will also receive confirmation via email.

Have questions? Need help? Email Carolyn at [admin@barronprize.org](mailto:admin@barronprize.org)