

The Order of Australia Association ACT Branch

ACT Student Citizenship Awards 2011

ACT students and schools have the opportunity to be nominated for awards for voluntary community service and demonstration of good citizenship.

The awards are made by The Order of Australia Association on the recommendation of an independent selection panel.

There are two types of award:

- Awards for outstanding individual leadership and achievement by year 11 and 12 students or in a gap year.
- Awards for meritorious group activity in community service and citizenship projects for students between kindergarten and year 10.

Individual awards are marked by an engraved medallion and a certificate.

The recipient schools receive an engraved plaque to signify the group awards.

Nominations are called from principals of schools and colleges by the last day of term 3. Awards are given at a special presentation ceremony in November in each year.

These awards are made under the auspices of the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association which seeks to foster love and pride in active Australian citizenship, most particularly in the younger members of the community. The association membership is made up of people who have received an award in the Order of Australia but these student awards have no direct connection with the Order of Australia itself.

The prestigious awards have the support of the ACT Minister for Education and training, Mr Andrew Barr, and of the school authorities, both government and non-government.

Awards were first available in 2009. Awards were made to Radford College for sustained assistance to students with disability at Cranleigh School; and to Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie for a sustained and ever increasing support in the local community and abroad in a wide range of charitable endeavour. No individual awards were made in that year.

The association notes the very diverse and commendable activities undertaken by students within the schools and colleges and in the community at home and abroad. Further information is available on line at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au <ACT Branch>.

Principals are encouraged to send nominations before the last day of term 3 to STUDENT AWARDS, OAA ACT, GPO BOX 423, Canberra City , ACT 2601 in the form of one or two A4 pages and a covering letter addressed to the Convenor, Student Awards Nomination Committee. Email nominations are acceptable if confirmed by post.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Is there a quota on the awards given?** Usually it would be expected that two or three awards in each category would be made. Awards are judged on merit and there is no fixed number.
2. **Who decides on the awards?** An independent panel of distinguished members of the Order of Australia Association advises the ACT Committee on the awards.
3. **Are there any criteria?** There are no fixed criteria , but some or all of the following are indicative:
 - a. Displayed assistance to a group in need e.g. elderly, homeless youth, people with disability sustained over a period of time or otherwise making a significant contribution to community development.
 - b. Demonstrated initiative and concern for the advancement or well being of others
 - c. Leadership producing significant benefits for the school or general community.
 - d. Contribution to the active sustainability of community resources
 - e. Contributions reflecting the values inherent in active Australian citizenship
4. **Is there a similar awards system in other states and territories?** Individual awards to year 11 and 12 students are made in NSW, Qld and SA. Queensland also makes awards to primary schools for group activity similar to the ACT K-Y10 awards. Some information concerning these programmes is available at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au <branches>.
5. **What connection is there with awards in the Order of Australia?** None. The Australian Honours system is described at www.itsanhonour.gov.au.
6. **Does an individual student award carry the right to use letters after one's name?** No.
7. **Is the medallion like the Medal of Order of Australia?** No. The design is very different. The insignia of the OAM may be worn by a recipient. The medallion of the Order of Australia Association is a trophy like any other trophy which may be displayed along with the framed certificate. The award is a valuable prestigious achievement meant to encourage future contributions to the community..
8. **Who keeps and displays the plaque awarded to school groups?** The school.
9. **Is there any accompanying benefit?** The Order of Australia Association does not provide any other tangible benefit or prize. Additional corporate sponsorship of value to assist the further progress of individual recipients may be developed in the future.