



Best and Brightest Application 2024

Thank you for participating in The Gazette's Best and Brightest 2024! This program is in its 33rd year and seeks to highlight the achievements of extraordinary high school seniors in the Pikes Peak region.

The ideal applicant will have:

- A minimum 2.5 GPA
- Displayed a commitment to community service
- The ability to articulate a vision for himself/herself/themselves and the future

Applications must be completed by the student applying, and those submitted prior to the deadline will be evaluated by a panel of community leaders. **Applications will be reviewed for academic achievements and intellectual curiosity, outstanding character, evidence of leadership and community involvement.**

The 2024 class will be announced in The Gazette on Sunday, April 21st to be followed by individual profiles in the newspaper to run daily from April 22 to May 11, 2024.

CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Complete all the questions in the application. You will type some of your answers directly in this form and others will be on separate pages.
- Enclose one (only one, please) sealed letter of recommendation from anyone in your life. It can be a guidance counselor, teacher, community leader, boss, peer, etc.
- Enclose a sealed transcript or ask your registrar to send it to the address below. Be sure it includes the most recent semester, even if grade is "in progress." Also include available ACT and SAT scores.
- Include all pages of your application together in one packet and mail or deliver to:

The Gazette
Attn: Best and Brightest
30 E. Pikes Peak Avenue, Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

**All applications must be received in our office by
4:00 pm March 20, 2024**

IMPORTANT DATES

March 20, 2024 • Application must be received at The Gazette by 4:00 pm.

April 21, 2024 • Best and Brightest students selected will be announced in The Gazette.

April 22-May 11, 2024 • Individual stories on each Best and Brightest student selected will publish in The Gazette and on gazette.com.

CONTACT US

If you have questions about the application, please contact: Kelly Spieker, Marketing Coordinator, The Gazette/Gazette Charities Foundation: (719)476-4840 or kelly.spieker@gazette.com.

BASIC INFORMATION

Student's name: <i>Children and siblings of Gazette employees are not eligible to participate.</i>	
Name(s) of parent(s) or legal guardian(s):	
Street address:	
City and zip:	
Student's phone number:	
Parent's phone number:	
Student's email address:	
Parent's email address:	
School and district:	

"I verify that all the information I have provided on my application is accurate."

Signature of applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent or guardian:

"I have read the information provided on this form and to the best of my knowledge it is correct. I consent to the publication of the name and photograph of my child, and of any of the information provided in this package."

Signature of parent or guardian: _____ Date: _____

Daytime telephone number: _____

Parent e-mail address: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Cumulative GPA weighted: _____ (Minimum of 2.5 GPA is required for this program)

ACT scores: _____

SAT scores: _____

Where are you attending college? If you have not decided, where have you been accepted?

Academic Honors and Achievements: List all academic honors and achievements in the past three years. You may create additional boxes as needed or include on a separate page.

Dates	Honor or Achievement

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF

Please answer the questions below using a maximum of four pages double-spaced for all three answers combined. Please answer each question separately, indicating each answer with the subject/question as a heading. Include your name and school on each page.

1. **DEFINING MOMENT** – What obstacles have you faced and how did you deal with that experience?
2. **VISION** – What is your goal for the future and how do you hope to impact your community?
3. **COMMUNITY SERVICE** – How do you contribute to our community?

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please provide one typed, sealed letter of recommendation from anyone in your life (guidance counselor, teacher, community leader, boss, peer, etc.). Directions for your reference are as follows: *In your letter, please state how long you have known the applicant and in what context. Write whatever you think is important about the individual, including a description of academic or personal characteristics. Mention specific incidents or anecdotes when possible. We are particularly interested in the student's contribution to school and community, intellectual curiosity, ability to overcome obstacles, motivation, integrity, leadership potential, special talents and enthusiasm. Please include your phone number or e-mail address.*

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Please refer to the checklist on the front page to make sure you have everything you need to submit your application by the 4:00 pm March 15, 2024, deadline. No exceptions will be made.