



Thank you for applying to the Gazette Charities Foundation's Best and Brightest scholarship program, now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year! This initiative aims to highlight and reward the extraordinary achievements of high school seniors in the Pikes Peak region.

Applicants should have:

- A minimum 2.5 GPA
- Displayed a commitment to community involvement
- The ability to articulate a vision for themselves and the future

Applications must be completed by the student applying, and those submitted by 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.**

## CHECKLIST OF ALL REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Completed answers to all the questions in the application. You will enter some of your answers into the application 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 member, supervisor, peer, etc.
- Enclose a sealed transcript or ask your school registrar to send it to the address below. Be sure it includes the most recent semester, even if the 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:

**Gazette Charities Foundation  
Attn: Best and Brightest  
30 E. Pikes Peak Ave., Ste. 100  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

If you deliver your application in person, The Gazette's entrance is located at the southwest corner of the building and there will be an application drop box in the foyer.

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**All applications must be received in our office by  
4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025** • Application must be received at The Gazette by 4:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 4, 2025** • Adjudication takes place – winners will be informed the following week

**Sunday, April 20, 2025** • Winner's announcement publishes in The Gazette newspaper

**April 21 – May 10, 2025** • Individual stories on each Best and Brightest student awarded will publish in The Gazette and on gazette.com, one winner per day.

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025** • Awards banquet at Weidner Field

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Directions for you to share with the person writing your letter are as follows: *In the letter, please state how long you've 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 adversity, motivation, integrity, leadership potential, special talents and enthusiasm. Please include your phone number and/or email 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 deadline. Applications must be physically received by the deadline, a postmark on the application deadline will not count. Emailed applications may be accepted if arrangements are made ahead of time. Please **do not** staple your application together.

## CONTACT US

If you have questions about the application, scholarship, or need to make special arrangements to submit your application, please contact:

**Kelly Spieker**, Marketing Coordinator, The Gazette and Gazette Charities Foundation  
O: 719.476.4840 • C: 719.201.4124 (text only) • [kelly.spieker@gazette.com](mailto:kelly.spieker@gazette.com)

## IF YOU ARE NAMED A BEST AND BRIGHTEST CLASS OF 2025 WINNER

Winners will be notified during the week of April 7, 2025, and will be asked to provide a photo that can be published in the newspaper as part of the winner's announcement and the personal article. This same photo will be used in a winner's presentation during the banquet. Winners will also be contacted by the Gazette reporter assigned to write their personal article.

**Please** identify a preferred method of communication on the application as things will move quickly – The Gazette and Gazette Charities Foundation team will need to reach you in order to meet newspaper deadlines!

**Please note: Any disciplinary actions on your school record could significantly diminish your chances of winning, and any ongoing investigations might outright disqualify you from consideration.**

# BEST AND BRIGHTEST APPLICATION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

<b>Name.</b>	
<b>Street Address</b>	
<b>City and zip code</b>	
<b>Phone number</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Preferred method of communication</b>	Phone call      Text message      Email
<b>High School and District</b>	

*Children and siblings of Gazette employees are not eligible to participate.*

“I verify all the information I have provided on my application is correct.”

**Signature of applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Phone number</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	

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

**Signature of parent or guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**Cumulative GPA weighted:** \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum of 2.52 GPA is required for this program.)

**ACT scores (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAT scores (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

List all academic honors, achievements, awards and accolades that you've received during your high school career. You may list more on a separate sheet or include a copy of your resume.

Date/year	Honor, achievement, award, or accolade

**ESSAY QUESTIONS**

**Tell us more about yourself.** Please answer each question below using a maximum of six 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 obstacle(s) have you faced and what did you learn from that experience?
2. **VISION:** What is your goal for the future and how do you hope to impact your community?
3. **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** How do you give back to your community? This could be within or outside of your school.