

## Alabama District Exchange Clubs 2024 Youth Awards

**Youth of the Year Award**-Recognizes high school seniors who attain high levels of scholastic achievement, community involvement, and leadership. Applications can be found on the NEC Website (<https://www.nationalexchangeclub.org/>) and are to be submitted to the ADEC Youth Awards Chair, John Schoen, by May 15, 2024. He will submit them to a review panel comprised of three (3) professionals. The panel will determine, based upon the application scores and the attached 800–1200-word essay, the 2024 ADEC Youth of the Year. The winner will be invited to attend the 2024 ADEC Annual Convention in Mobile, AL on Saturday, June 1, 2024, where he or she will receive a check for \$1,000. An application on behalf of the winner will also be submitted to the National Exchange Club for consideration for the National Youth of the Year Award, which is \$15,000.

**Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (A.C.E.) Award**-Recognizes high school seniors who have made a dramatic change in their attitude and performance during their high school years. These changes have enabled the student to overcome adversities and prepare for graduation. Applications can be found on the NEC website (<https://www.nationalexchangeclub.org/>) and are to be submitted to the ADEC Youth Awards Chair, John Schoen, by May 15, 2024. He will submit them to a review panel made up of three (3) professionals. The panel will determine, based upon the application scores and two 250-word narratives, the ADEC A.C.E. Award Winner. The winner will be invited to attend the 2024 ADEC Annual Convention in Mobile, AL on Saturday, June 1, 2024, where he or she will receive a check for \$1,000. An application on behalf of the winner will also be submitted to the National Exchange Club for consideration for the National A.C.E. Award, which is \$15,000.

**Oratorical Contest**-Six (6) youth (3 males and 3 females) from around Alabama are invited to participate in an oratorical contest held at the ADEC Annual Convention in Mobile, AL on Saturday, June 1, 2024. The youth will present speeches based upon the yearly theme of Americanism and will be judged by a panel made up of three (3) judges. Each participant will receive a check for \$300 and the male and female winners will each receive an additional \$300. Applications should be submitted to John Schoen, ADEC Youth Awards Chair, by May 15, 2024.

**Legacy of the Year Award**-is a National Exchange Club award and recognizes high school students who are children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren of Exchange Club members. Candidates must also display exceptional community involvement and leadership skills. Candidates for this award must submit their applications directly to the National Exchange Club Headquarters.

**The theme for the 2024 Youth of the Year Essay and Oratorical Contest is:**  
***“How Has the Increasing Emphasis on Diversity and Inclusion Impacted American Youth?”***

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