

JUDGING & QUALIFICATIONS

Each nominee will be required to submit a portfolio containing entry forms, a 3x5-inch photo, category-based showpiece items and other information. (Please see “Guidelines for Preparing Portfolios”). Judging will be based on portfolios, exhibits and personal interviews that demonstrate excellence in the following areas:

- ≡ **SCHOLARSHIP (20 Points)**. A nominee’s overall GPA, difficulty of class schedule, standardized test scores such as ACT and SAT, class ranking and similar scholarship items attained during high school will be used to establish points for Scholarship.
- ≡ **CATEGORY SCHOLARSHIP (20 Points)**. Emphasis is placed on the nominee’s ability and talent in their specific category. While judges seek evidence of growth and service in all activities, the nominee’s talent and aptitude within their category will receive particular emphasis in this judging phase.
- ≡ **LEADERSHIP (20 Points)**. The qualities of leadership in Utah public high schools can be measured in part by the responsibilities placed on a nominee by his/her teachers and fellow nominees. However, evidence of positive influence with fellow nominees also shall be considered an indication of leadership.
- ≡ **COMMUNITY SERVICE/CITIZENSHIP (20 Points)**. Each Sterling Scholar nominee should exhibit a record of high standards of citizenship throughout his/her high school years. Service to school, community or other organizations will be considered. The nominee’s attitude toward the acceptance of responsibility in contribution roles, as well as seeking out service opportunities will be especially important. Evidence of a long-term commitment to service will also receive particular attention.
- ≡ **INTERVIEW (20 Points) – Semifinalist and Finalist Judging**. During the interview judges will evaluate the nominee’s ability to answer questions pertaining to their category. Body language, technical knowledge, communication skills, and plans for continued education in the category will all be included in the Interview point assessment.