



Creating and Enriching Community through People, Programs and Partnerships"  
City of Torrance Community Services Department  
3031 Torrance Blvd. Torrance CA 90503 • 310/618-2930  
[www.Recreation.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.Recreation.TorranceCA.Gov)

## Torrance Youth Council

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual "Beat the Odds" Celebration Selection Guidelines

### Applications are due March 25, 2016

The Torrance Youth Council is an advisory body to the City Council on issues pertaining to youth. The Council is comprised of 18 high school students from the four Torrance Unified high schools, Bishop Montgomery, C.A.M.S., Shery and two members at large. Youth Council is involved in such diverse projects as: Junior State of America, THE ATTIC, Youth Forum, ASB Bowl, Community Service, as well as a large fundraising and donation program.

The Torrance Youth Council developed their "*Beat the Odds*" program in 1996 as a way to celebrate and underscore the positive potential of our City's youth. This scholarship honors those graduating high school seniors who have overcome obstacles, large or small and who have contributed to the well being of others in their community.

The Torrance Youth Council is looking to honor these deserving students with \$1,000.00 *scholarships* to use towards their continuing education. The criteria is to have overcome odds in their personal or academic lives, have improved their lives and the lives of others, or have shown strength and determination by achieving excellence in a certain area despite encountering obstacles. Applicants must reside in Torrance.

**Each school is asked to encourage all qualifying students to submit an application, and we ask that each school submit at least five applicants.** If you have more than five, please call Youth Council Liaison, Deborah Reed, at 310/ 618-2949.

Scholarship winners will be honored at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual "**Beat the Odds**" celebration dinner Thursday evening May 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. please plan accordingly.

#### **Please mail completed application to:**

City of Torrance Youth Council  
c/o Youth Council Liaison  
3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503



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## Torrance Youth Council "Beat the Odds" Scholarship *Guidelines*

### **Nominees must be:**

- Torrance Residents (must live in the City of Torrance)
- Seniors enrolled in a high school located in the City of Torrance with graduation imminent. (*CAMS is the exception, student must reside in the City of Torrance*)
- Must complete the application and turn in all information requested by the deadline.

### **Nominees should be:**

- Currently possessing and also maintaining a grade point average showing marked effort, improvement or success. (not merit based academically)
- Succeeding despite, but not limited to, hardships such as poverty, disability, homelessness or personal tragedy. Must demonstrate an ability to overcome obstacles
- Participating in activities helpful to others with in your family, church or community; such as volunteerism or other forms of community involvement.

If you have any questions, please contact Youth Council Liaison, Deborah Reed, at 310/618-2949 or [dreed@torranceca.gov](mailto:dreed@torranceca.gov)



**"Beat the Odds"**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Annual "Achievement Awards"**  
**Application**

**(Application must be postmarked by Friday, March 25, 2016)**

**The application must include:**

- **Applicant must reside in the City of Torrance and attend a Torrance High School (North, West, South, Torrance, Sherry, Bishop and CAMS).**
- This form; completed and all information submitted, please type or print and fill in all lines. Don't wait to late to obtain needed signatures.
- An essay, not to exceed two pages double spaced, from the applicant which states in what ways he/she has "overcome adversity". Include **community and or school service**. The essay should address the guidelines highlighted in page two of this packet.
- Two letters of recommendation, can be from a teacher, supervisor, coach, counselor, advisor, or a member of the clergy (Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, Minister) *only*.
- An official copy of the applicant's high school transcript.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnicity

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 # Living in Household

\_\_\_\_\_  
 High School

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Cumulative G.P.A.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 School Contact Person/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
 School Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Principal's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date