



2012 SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST GUIDELINES

The Missouri Gaming Association is announcing the Project 21 2012 Scholarship Program. This will be the sixteenth year the scholarship campaign is conducted in Missouri. The goal of this scholarship program is to inform our youth that it is not permissible in Missouri for persons under the age of 21 to gamble in a casino and to also educate them about the dangers and consequences associated with underage gambling.

The Project 21 Underage Gaming Task Force was established by Harrah's Entertainment in 1989 to address the issue of underage gambling. We strongly believe in the continuation of education and awareness programs such as Project 21 as effective tools in deterring underage gambling.

Project 21 2012 Scholarship Program provides students an opportunity to disseminate their message by writing an article or creating a poster or video addressing the issue of underage gambling. Project 21 Scholarships will be awarded for 2012 as follows: Two \$1,500.00 First Prizes, and Four \$1,000.00 Second Prizes.





2012 ESSAY/POSTER/VIDEO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



1. Applicant's Name: _____
2. Applicant's **COMPLETE** Address _____
3. Phone: () _____ Alternate Phone: () _____ Present School Grade: _____
4. School Name: _____
5. School **COMPLETE** Address & Phone: _____
6. Please indicate whether you are submitting an Article _____ Poster _____ Or Video _____
7. If you are submitting an article, please complete 7a and b; or c below. Please send 1 set of the school publication containing the article.
 - a. School Newspaper Name: _____
 - b. Date Article Published: _____
 - c. If there is not a school publication the article must be presented to an appropriate class as determined by the school counselor and must be published in a local newspaper sometime between Jan. 1, 2012 and Feb. 28, 2012. A signed letter from the school counselor verifying the class presented to and date of presentation as well as one copy of the newspaper containing the published article must accompany the application.
8. If you are submitting a poster, please note the poster must be on **22 in. x 28 in.** poster board. **Please write your name and address on the back of your poster.**
Date Displayed: _____ Campus Location Displayed: _____
9. If you are submitting a video, please make a copy and send it with your name and address on the label. All videos entries must be in DVD format and must be at least 1 minute in length, but no longer than 5 minutes. Keep in mind copy right infringement if you are using music.
Date(s) Viewed: _____ Campus Location Viewed: _____
10. Desired career path if known: _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THE SCHOLARSHIPS (TWO \$1,500.00 FIRST PRIZES AND FOUR \$1,000.00 SECOND PRIZES) WILL BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE WINNING STUDENT(S) **AND** THE SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION THE STUDENT IS ATTENDING OR PLANS TO ATTEND. IF THE STUDENT IS UNDECIDED ABOUT WHEN AND/OR WHERE HE/SHE WILL ATTEND AT THE TIME SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ARE DISTRIBUTED, THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE HELD IN ESCROW BY THE MISSOURI GAMING ASSOCIATION (FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 4 YEARS) UNTIL THE STUDENT IS READY TO ATTEND A SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION. **IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING A SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE SCHOOL YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE IDENTIFY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SCHOOL BELOW:**

Name and Address of School of Higher Education: _____

Student's Name (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Student's Signature _____ Name of School Counselor/Advisor _____

Student's Age and Birth date _____ Phone Number of Counselor/Advisor _____

If student is less than 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign this application.

Parent's Name (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____

Please return application, entry and other required documentation as outlined in the PROJECT 21 2012 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES to Missouri Gaming Association, Attn: Mike Winter, 109A East High St., P.O. Box 305, Jefferson City, MO 65102 by **March 9, 2012.**

PLEASE SEE PROJECT 21 2012 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETE RULES.

MISSOURI GAMING ASSOCIATION

PROJECT 21 2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. **Eligible Applicants:** ALL MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS are eligible (exception - see Rule 8 below).
2. **Content:** Articles, posters and videos will be reviewed and judged for originality, content, style and educational value. The focus of the article, poster or video should be on the topic of deterring young people from engaging in underage gambling and/or the ramifications associated with underage gambling. **Please do not confuse this topic with anti-gambling or compulsive gambling topics as they are not the same.**
3. **Entry Requirements:**

Article - An article entry must be published in the newspaper, magazine or publication of the applicant's school between January 1, 2012 and February 28, 2012 (exception noted in 7c of the Application). One set of the student newspaper, magazine or publication in which the article appears must be submitted.

Poster - A poster entry (**22 in. x 28 in.**) must be displayed in a public area of the applicant's school for at least one full week between January 1, 2012 and February 28, 2012. The poster entry must be accompanied by an essay (minimum of one-page; double-spaced) discussing the topic of underage gambling as noted in "Content." The essay does not need to be displayed or published at the school. A brief letter signed by a school counselor certifying the poster was displayed at the school along with the dates of display must also accompany the poster and essay.

Video - A video entry must be viewed in a school class or forum between January 1, 2012 and February 28, 2012 and must be at least 1 minute in length, but no longer than five minutes. A brief letter signed by a school counselor certifying the video was viewed at the school along with the date(s) must accompany the video.
4. **Application:** **The article, poster or video entry must be accompanied by a Project 21 2012 Scholarship Application, in addition to any other required documentation outlined above.** Students may obtain an application at www.missouricasinos.org or by calling or writing the Missouri Gaming Association, 573-634-4001, 109A East High St., P.O. Box 305, Jefferson City, MO 65102.
5. **Submission Deadline:** The article, poster or video entry, completed application and other required documentation outlined above must be submitted to the Missouri Gaming Association, Attn: Mike Winter, 109A East High St. - Suite 250, P.O. Box 305, Jefferson City, MO 65102 by **MARCH 9, 2012.**
6. **Judging:** Final judging and the selection of the winning entries will be determined by an Executive Committee comprised of officials from the Missouri Gaming Association. All decisions made by the Association will be final. Entries become the property of the Missouri Gaming Association and will not be returned except at the discretion of the MGA.
7. **Notice to Winners:** Notification to the winners of the winning articles, posters and/or videos will be announced by April 13, 2012. The checks will be awarded by May 11, 2012 unless Rule 11 applies.
8. **Ineligibility:** Part-time casino employees that are high school seniors working less than 32 hours per week **are** eligible. Children (high school seniors) of Missouri casino employees **are** eligible for the Project 21 Scholarships, provided the student is not a child of a Missouri Gaming Association officer or a Missouri Project 21 Executive Committee member. Prior winners of Project 21 Scholarships **are not** eligible.
9. **Scholarship Awards:** The student authors and/or artists of the winning entries will each receive a Project 21 Scholarship in accordance with Rules 10 and 11 below.
10. **Joint Authorship:** If a winning article is written by more than one student author, then the authors of the article will all share pro rata in the Project 21 Scholarship. If a winning poster or video is created by more than one student, then the creators of the poster or video will all share pro rata in the Project 21 Scholarship.
11. **Scholarship Check Distribution:** The Project 21 Scholarship checks will be issued jointly to the winning author and to an accredited school of higher education including colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools located within the United States, which the winning student is, or will be attending. If a winning student has not chosen a school of higher education when the scholarship check is scheduled for distribution, the Missouri Gaming Association will hold the winnings (or the pro rata amount as the case may be) in escrow until the student is ready to attend school. The proceeds can be held no longer than four years. After four years, the proceeds will be donated to a charitable agency or used for a charitable purpose (including other Project 21 Scholarships) if the funds have not been used by that time.

Underage Gambling: A Lose Lose Situation

By Daniel Sanders
Windsor High School

Jack thought his dad was the greatest. His dad coached his summer baseball team and drove a big pick-up truck with lots of power, and always flashed money around to impress his friends. Jack thought his dad was a man's man. He wanted to be just like him. After Jack's parents divorced, he discovered when he visited on weekends that his dad gambled at the boats. His dad started taking him along to the casinos. Jack was so impressed by what he saw that soon he was gambling in a variety of ways. In Jack's mind, he was just like his dad and his dad would love him even more.

Studies show that most teens are introduced to gambling by a parent or adult close to them. (www.mgc.dps.mo.gov) Some adults forget that teens still look to them for role models and guidance. If a teen sees a parent, family member, or older friend gambling, he/she is given the impression that it is acceptable to gamble.

Teens may start gambling with games they view as harmless; such as, bingo, betting on sports games, internet gambling, card games, or dice. Once a teen experiences the "high" of winning, especially if that person has a poor self-image, he/she is more likely to continue gambling. The win gives them a feeling of success that he/she might not otherwise have. The teen believes that the thrill experienced in winning a bet can only be found in gambling. Teens see this as a winning situation. They feel good about themselves, are happy, and think that other people are impressed with the money that they have.

When teens lose, which will surely happen, their lives take a bad turn. At some point, they find themselves needing cash. Parents and friends may be stolen from, lunch money sometimes is used, and personal items sold to cover money that is owed to others. Teens who owe money become more and more depressed. Homework is neglected, classes are skipped, lies are told, personal relationships are sacrificed, and in some cases suicide is committed by those who do not know how to solve the problems that are a result of gambling. (www.mgc.dps.mo.gov) Not only do the teens lose, but their families and friends also lose.

The best way for teens to have a win win situation is totally avoid gambling in any form. But, when teens, like Jack, are losing the fight there is help for them that every parent should know about. The state of Missouri, being widely known for addressing problem gambling, provides free gambling treatment for those with compulsive gambling problems. These programs are made available by the Missouri Gaming Commission. Problem gamblers and their families can also get information by calling 1-888-BETSOFF help line or going to www.888betsoff.org Web site. Life does not have to be a lose lose situation.

Daniel Sanders, a 2011 graduate of Windsor High School, won a \$1,500 scholarship to attend the University of Central Missouri. Sander's article appeared in his local newspaper "The Windsor Review."