

NAIGC Spirit of Leadership Scholarship

Description of the Award Selection Process

The NAIGC Spirit of Leadership Scholarship recognizes undergraduate gymnasts who exemplify leadership, initiative, and a deep commitment to strengthening the NAIGC community. Our selection process is designed to be fair, transparent, and inclusive, and to reflect the many ways leadership shows up across our organization.

Who is Eligible to Apply

Candidates must be full-time college undergraduate student leaders who plan to be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree program and actively participating in an NAIGC club throughout the scholarship award school year.

What We Look For

Applications and nominations are evaluated using a common set of criteria that reflect NAIGC's mission and values. Reviewers assess evidence of:

1. **Leadership and Initiative**
Formal or informal leadership within a club and/or the broader NAIGC community, with positive contributions that strengthen team culture, participation, and/or sustainability.
2. **Alignment with NAIGC Core Values**
Including inclusion and opportunity, exceptional member experience, transparency, and innovation.
3. **Inclusion, Access, and Belonging**
Efforts to foster welcoming, supportive, and accessible spaces in gymnastics.
4. **Ongoing Commitment to NAIGC**
Demonstrated consistency and a likelihood of continued involvement during the scholarship period.
5. **Unique Attributes**

Leadership in NAIGC can take many forms, and reviewers are encouraged to value both **formal roles and behind-the-scenes contributions**, as well as differences in club size, resources, and context.

How Applications and Nominations Are Reviewed

All candidates are evaluated using the same scoring rubric. Reviewers focus on the **quality and substance** of evidence, not titles, visibility, or popularity.

Each application or nomination is reviewed independently by at least two reviewers using the same standardized rubric. Reviewers score applications separately before engaging in collaborative discussion. Final decisions are informed by both rubric scores and collective deliberation among the scholarship review committee to ensure consistency, fairness, and thoughtful consideration of each candidate.

Reviewer conflicts of interest are disclosed and managed to maintain fairness in the selection process.

Role of External Recommendations

External recommendations are considered as evidence of peer recognition, but they do not determine outcomes on their own.

- Reviewers prioritize specific examples and **demonstrated impact of meaningful leadership** over general praise.

Finalists are selected based on their overall evaluation across all criteria, drawing on both quantitative rubric scores and collaborative discussion among reviewers. In close cases, the committee may consider the breadth, consistency, and clarity of evidence, as well as how candidates embody the spirit of the Leadership Scholarship.

The goal of the process is to recognize leaders who help sustain the **inclusive, supportive, and joyful culture** that makes NAIGC unique.

Our Commitment to Equity

NAIGC is committed to removing barriers and recognizing leadership in all its forms. We encourage nominations from across regions, clubs, and backgrounds, and we value contributions that may not always be highly visible but are essential to our community.

AI Statement

While we recognize that AI tools are increasingly common, we strongly encourage applicants/nominators to write their responses independently. Submissions should reflect your own thinking and writing. Applications that read overly generic or not reflective of a personal voice may be disadvantaged in the review process.