

CW04

**ASSYRIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL FEDERATION  
76<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Chicago, Illinois**

**16<sup>TH</sup> ASSYRIAN YOUTH  
EXCELLENCE CONTEST**

**Participant  
Packet**

MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2009

Dear Fellow Assyrian:

The Assyrian American National Federation's MidWest Region, is the hosting affiliate for the 76th National Convention to be held in Chicago, Illinois during the labor day weekend, September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 7th, 2009. As part of the convention program the AANF Youth Initiative Program is organizing the Sixteenth "**Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest**", a program to promote and reward education, talent, knowledge of the Assyrian language and history and good character among our youth.

The process of the program will be as follow:

- a) An Assyrian organization, through a selection process will select and nominate a student and introduce them to the National Convention Committee.
- b) The "Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest National Convention Committee", in a special contest during the National Convention, and from the organizations' nominees will select the Youth Excellence Contest winner, and two runner-ups , and will present them with awards and prizes.
- c) The young Assyrian Man or Woman of the year will be invited as guest of honor and acknowledged at the convention banquet, to be held on Sunday evening.

Enclosed are the criteria required to participate in the above contest, the application form and the contest process. If you feel eligible to participate, we invite you to complete the Application Package and mail (or submit) it to us by August 15<sup>th</sup> , 2009. This participation is open to all Assyrian students studying anywhere in the world. You may also make copies of this package and provide it to those that we have not been able to reach.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call Zeena Yonkers, Youth initiative Program Director at 860-604-6498 or email at [zyonkers@aanf.org](mailto:zyonkers@aanf.org)

Sincerely,

Adad Ashurseen  
AANF President

**76th National Convention- Chicago, Illinois**

**Hosted by: MidWest Region**

***Sixteenth***  
**ASSYRIAN YOUTH EXCELLENCE CONTEST**

**Objective**

To promote and reward education and talent among our youth, invite them to preserve the Assyrian language and learn about Assyrian heritage and culture and encourage them to be individuals with good character.

**1. Selection Criteria**

The following Criteria are required to be met by all the candidates:

1. Have at least one parent of Assyrian decent.
2. Must be between ages of 18 to 24, and be a college student.
3. Be at good standing in their respective educational field, with GPA of 3.0 or above.
4. Involvement or interest in any of the areas of : art, literature, science and sport.
5. Ability to speak basic Assyrian language. Reading and writing abilities in the Assyrian language will be considered as a plus.
6. Basic and general knowledge about Assyrian history, literature, art and the major Assyrian figures (historical, religious, literary and artistic), and also today's standing of Assyrians.
7. Be a member of good standing in an Assyrian organization such as association, church or youth group. This may be directly or through parents.

**2. Application Package**

1. The application package will include:
  - a) Completed and signed Application Form (copy attached).
  - b) Copy of transcripts, indicating the most recent GPA score.
  - c) Supplementary documents such as art works, copies of awards and outstanding papers.
  - d) Copy of membership in youth activities in Assyrian organization or Church.
  - e) Two or more character references from prominent members of the community such as : school or college teachers, church ministers or president of the association.
  - e) A personal biography emphasizing achievements.
  - g) Two most recent passport size pictures.

Note: The pictures will merely be used for introduction purposes and to organize an "Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest" history book.

2. The application package should be received by this association for review and final selection by August 15<sup>th</sup> , 2009.

3. The application package of the nominees, as selected by this association, should be mailed to the National Convention Committee at the following address, by August 15<sup>th</sup> , 2009

Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest Committee  
AANF Headquarters  
C/O Margaret Khamoo  
**3941 Oakton St.**  
**Skokie, IL 60076**

4. The applicant must be at the Convention site in Chicago, IL, by 5 PM on Friday, September 4th, 2009, to participate in the first phase of the contest. The National Convention Committee will provide the candidates with details on time, location and arrangement of the meetings.

5. Contestant will be responsible for all his/her expenses, to participate in the Excellence Contest. One Hotel room will be shared by all male contestants who are in need of a room and one room will be shared by all female contestants in need of a room. Registration fee for convention will be waived for contestants.

6. The Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest Convention Committee reserves the right to approve or deny any application.

### **3. Contest**

The Contest of the "Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest" will be conducted in two phases as follow:

**Phase 1** :An introduction and orientation session, joined by all candidates. In this meeting a written test on Assyrian history and literature, will also be conducted. Depending on the number of candidates, all, or a selected number of the nominees will be identified to participate in phase two of the contest. This session, will be joined by the judging panel of the Assyrian Youth Excellence Contest National Convention Committee and is held on Friday September 4th , 2009, in the evening.

**Phase 2**: An introduction and presentation by each candidate of their talent (for 3-5 minutes if needed) and response to one random question. During this session the judging panel will select the Assyrian Young Man or Woman of the year and the two runner-ups and introduce them to the audience. This phase

of the contest will be held either Saturday or Sunday as schedule permits and will be attended by convention guests.

#### **4. References and Sample Questions**

As a guide to obtain information and knowledge on Assyrians, enclosed are few references to the sources, some sample questions on the written test and a sample of the random questions.

**76th National Convention- Chicago, IL  
Hosted by Western Region**

**Sixteenth ASSYRIAN YOUTH EXCELLENCE CONTEST**

**References and Sample Questions  
for General Knowledge on Assyrian History & Random Questions**

The following references are readily available in all public libraries. Since the evaluation questions will be based upon these references, we recommend that the candidates read this material.

**References**

- a. "Assyrians" Encyclopedia Americana (Latest Edition)
- b. "Assyrians" Encyclopedia Britannica (Latest Edition)
- c. "Harvard Encyclopedia Of American Ethnic Groups (Entry On The Assyrians)

**Written Test Sample Questions**

1. What is Ashurbanipal famous for?
2. The year of the fall of the Assyrian Empire?
3. What does Bet-Nahrain mean?
4. Assyrians and Babylonians are famous for some important inventions which are the foundation of modern science. Name three.
5. What is Gilgamesh?
6. What are the two rivers that flow through the Assyrian Homeland?
7. What is the name for the ancient Assyrian language?
8. Who built the hanging gardens of Babylon?
9. What is the name for the ancient Assyrian script?
10. Jesus Christ was born in Israel. What language did he speak? Why?
11. What are the Assyrian Nestorians famous for?
12. Why is the period between 1914-1918 significant for the Assyrians?
13. What are the main Christian denominations that Assyrians belong to?
14. Who was Agha Petros?
15. Who was Mar Benjamin Shimoon?
16. What is Kateeni Gabbara?
17. Name two Assyrian periodicals that are published in the USA?
18. Where do most Assyrians live today?
19. Assyrians commemorate the 7th of August every year. Why?
20. Which Assyrian year is now?

**Random Question Samples**

1. In your opinion what must the Assyrians, living in the USA do to be united?
2. What is the value of a supportive and loving family?
3. Name one strength and one weakness of our people?
4. If you could live your life again, what would you do differently?
5. In your opinion, what unique or exceptional opportunities does the USA offer to Assyrians that other countries do not?

**76th National Convention- Chicago, IL  
Hosted by MidWest Region  
Sixteenth ASSYRIAN YOUTH EXCELLENCE CONTEST**

(Application Form)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Education \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Honor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Talent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Assyrian Language Skills: Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the nominating organization \_\_\_\_\_

President / Vice President Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_