



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

February, 2020

Dear Scholarship Candidate,

We are pleased that you have picked up an application packet regarding the student-athlete scholarship called The Torch Award. Mitchell Swaback Charities is sponsoring full-year tuition scholarships for one male and one female HCA high school student. We will be working very closely with the foundation in selecting candidates who reflect the criteria established by the foundation. These criteria include Christian character, academic achievement, and athletic participation. If you believe you possess these qualities, then we invite you to apply.

The application requires some self reporting with signatures of officials that can verify what you have written. For example, as you detail the sports that you have been involved in beginning in your freshman year, you will need to have a coach's signature verifying your involvement. The same is true for the service section. For example, if you serve in the student ministry, then you will need to have the youth pastor verify your participation. The character section with essays and short answers regarding church involvement needs to be given to your pastor/youth pastor who will complete his portion and mail it directly to the school. All scholarship materials must be received in the school office no later than **Wednesday, March 18, 2020**. This deadline includes the information being sent by your pastor. All of this takes some time, so please start the process right away. Only completed application packets and subsequent documentation that are received by the deadline will be considered.

This scholarship is definitely worthy of your best effort. I look forward to receiving all your information by the deadline of **March 18, 2020**.

Sincerely,

**Talbot Behnken**

Harvest Christian Academy

Executive Director



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

## MITCHELL SWABACK

### STUDENT ATHLETE

### TORCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Since the fall of 2008, the Mitchell Swaback Foundation has awarded full-year tuition scholarships to two student athletes at Harvest Christian Academy (HCA). The scholarship is designed to remember and pass on the legacy of Mitchell Swaback, who as an athlete, boldly shined the light of Jesus Christ. Called the Torch Award, this scholarship symbolizes the Olympic athlete running with the torch giving light to all with whom he/she comes in contact.

Philippians 3:13b-14, "But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

The Mitchell Swaback Charities was started October 15, 2004. The purpose of the Charities is to continue to impact individuals, organizations, and families as Mitch had done so many times. The Charities wishes to continue Mitch's compassion to serve in missions, to serve the church, and to honor God in the way he did on a daily basis. This scholarship is one such way that the Charities desire to continue Mitch's legacy in tangible ways.

## Eligibility

Current grade 9 – 11 students who are enrolled in Harvest Christian Academy by March 18, 2020 for the following school year are encouraged to apply for this award. Applicants will be judged in the following categories:

- Athletics (participation and leadership)
- Character (including Christian walk and service to others)
- Academics

## Application Process

After reviewing the eligibility guidelines, applicants must complete the application, careful to follow the timelines/deadlines as given. Please note that the application process requires the applicant to contact pastors, coaches, etc. to verify information, which requires time to complete. All elements of the application must be completed and received by HCA by the deadline in order for the application to be considered. After the application deadline has passed, a panel of judges will convene to determine the three top male and female finalists. These finalists will be asked to appear before the panel to be interviewed to help determine the final selection of awards. **Every aspect of this application, including the essays and future participation, is important and will be thoroughly scrutinized and evaluated. Therefore, please complete the application with care and thoughtfulness.**

## Awards

One male and one female student will be awarded a full year scholarship covering one year of tuition at Harvest Christian Academy.



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

harvestchristianacademy.org

## THE TORCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Grade entering in the fall \_\_\_\_\_ **Is the applicant enrolled for the fall?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Applicant must be enrolled for the next year by the time of the application deadline.*

### I. Athletic Participation (50 points maximum)

#### Part I: Current and Past Athletic Participation

Please list all interscholastic sports (club sports, AAU, etc. may count) that you have participated in beginning in your ninth grade year and later (maximum of six sports seasons):

Interscholastic Sport/ Club Sport	Participation Dates	Name of Coach	Was this an HCA sanctioned team (Yes/No)?	List honors, awards received (captain, all-conference, etc.)	Signature of coach verifying information provided

#### Part 2: Future Activities and Athletic Participation

Please check everything that you plan on participating in next school year\*

Fall

- Boys Soccer
- Boys/Girls Golf
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys/Girls Cross Country
- MSC ½ Marathon Event

Winter

- Girls Cheerleading
- Boys/Girls Basketball
- Girls/Boys Wrestling

Spring

- Boys Baseball
- Girls Soccer

- Bass Fishing
- Boys/Girls Track and Field

All Year

- Student Council
- National Honor Society
- Drama
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

## II. Character (90 points maximum)

### Part I: Christian Walk

The following pages contain information that both you and your pastor/youth pastor need to complete. Once your part is completed you need to give the letter, form, essays and an addressed and stamped envelope for him to verify your information and then return his response. The envelope should be addressed to:

Harvest Christian Academy  
 Attention: Guidance Department  
 1000 North Randall Road  
 Elgin, IL 60123

**Be sure to explain to your pastor/youth pastor that the materials you give him must be sealed and returned by March 18, 2020<sup>in</sup> the envelope you provided for him. If not returned in this manner it will not be accepted.**

### Part 2: Service to others

Please list hours of service you have been involved in from February of 2019 up to the due date of this application, March 18, 2020.

<b>Type of Activity</b> Explain in detail what you actually did during your time of service	<b>Dates and times</b> The actual service took place	<b>Total Hours Served</b> between Feb 2019 and Mar 2020	<b>Ministry Name and Ministry Leader's Name</b>	<b>Leader's Signature</b> This approves the information on this line item to be true

Examples of acceptable service could include: church choir, helping in AWANA, youth groups, or children's ministries, ushering, student council, mission trips\*, etc.

*\*Mission trips only count up to 20 total hours served or 10 points*



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

## III. Academic Achievement (40 points maximum)

Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Please forward transcripts to the HCA guidance office if you are not currently an HCA student. Please forward transcripts of any high school years other than those at Harvest Christian Academy.

HCA will review the applicant's high school transcripts and award points for his/her top ten semester grades for core subjects (Bible, English, Reading, Science, Math, and History)



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_  
(Pastor verifying enclosed form)

You have been given this form by the above-named student who is applying for The Torch Award. The student has named you because he/she believes that you are the person of his/her church to evaluate the candidate's spiritual walk with Jesus Christ. If you believe that there is someone better qualified to evaluate the applicant, we ask that you give this letter and attached sheet to that person.

The Torch Award is given annually by Harvest Christian Academy and funded by The Mitchell Swaback Charities. This student has written some short essays and answered some questions with regard to his spiritual walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you take just a few moments to read these essays and answers related to participation in the church. At the bottom of each essay and after each of the two questions, please verify the things that the student has written. After signing this one-page form, return it in the stamped and addressed envelope provided by the student. The envelope provided should be sent directly to:

Harvest Christian Academy  
1000 North Randall Road  
Elgin, IL 60123  
Attention: Guidance Department

In order to ensure confidentiality, all reference forms should be returned by you to the guidance department or mailed by you to the school at the above address. **This reference form will not be accepted if it is returned by the student applicant.**

Your return of this form in a timely way is very much appreciated. Only applications and subsequent information will be considered if received by Harvest Christian Academy by the deadline date of **March 18, 2020**. We thank you in advance for your assistance in providing this verification of the things written by this student.

On behalf of the Harvest Christian Academy and The Mitchell Swaback Charities, thank you for your valuable assistance to this student.

Sincerely,  
**Talbot Behnken**  
Harvest Christian Academy  
Executive Director



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Applicant Essay 1:

Attach a typed, well written paragraph describing how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and how your relationship with Him is making a difference in your life? Be sure to include the question your essay is addressing. (Attach your typed essay to this form prior to presenting it to your pastor)

### Pastor Response:

I agree that the essay above represents what I have observed in this student's walk with Christ. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (optional)

## II. Applicant Essay 2:

Attach a typed, well written paragraph describing what you are doing to maintain a vital, fresh and daily walk with the Lord. Be sure to include the question your essay is addressing. (Attach your typed essay to this form prior to presenting it to your pastor)

### Pastor Response:

I agree that the essay above represents what I have observed in this student's walk with Christ. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Comments: (optional)

## III. Applicant Question:

Do you attend church regularly? "Regular" meaning you attend at least three services every month and have done so over the past twelve months. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_.

### Pastor:

I agree that the applicant's answer to the question above represents what I have observed in this student's walk with Christ. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Comments: (optional)



# HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1000 North Randall Road

Elgin, IL 60123

847.214.3500

[harvestchristianacademy.org](http://harvestchristianacademy.org)

## IV. Applicant Question:

Are you actively involved in a youth group or small group? Actively meaning you attend at least three group meetings every month and have done so over the past twelve months.

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_.

### Pastor:

I agree that the applicant's answer to the question above represents what I have observed in this student's walk with Christ.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (optional)

By signing this form, you are stating that you have read the essays and short questions and have verified each to the best of your ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor/Youth Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

Please be assured that the information provided by you on this form will be held in the strictest confidence. Neither the applicant nor the applicant's family will receive any information in part or whole regarding the things that you have shared on this form.

**The due date for the return of this form is March 18, 2020 in the envelope your student supplied you with. Thank you for your assistance.**