

S T A R L I G H T  
**Blue Star**  
◆ A W A R D S ◆

**2020-2021**

**Rules and Guidelines**

**Starlight Theatre**

4600 Starlight Road  
Kansas City, MO 64132

**For more information:**

[kcstarlight.com/bluestarawards](https://kcstarlight.com/bluestarawards)

Or contact:

Community Engagement Department

[education@kcstarlight.com](mailto:education@kcstarlight.com)

816-997-1134

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1. **Participant Eligibility**

Section 2. **Participant Benefits**

Section 3. **Awards**

Section 4. **Nominations**

Section 5. **Ceremony**

## Section 1 – Participant Eligibility

- A. To be eligible for participation in the Blue Star Awards, a school must:**
1. be any public or private high school located within a driving distance of 60 miles from Starlight Theatre. Participating schools from the 2019-2020 Blue Star Awards are exempt from the mileage limit.
  2. complete and submit a Registration Form.
  3. submit a \$75 registration fee by October 30, 2020.

## Section 2 – Participant Benefits

- A. Adjudicator Commentary**  
If presenting a musical, schools can opt into having an adjudicator attend their production and provide commentary. This report is intended to give teachers educational feedback to share with their students and to consider for future productions.
- B. Noncompetitive Offerings**  
Starlight will host workshops and events during the 2020-2021 season to help students develop and grow. These noncompetitive offerings are not mandatory but will be offered at a reduced cost to students.

## Section 3 – Awards

- A. Outstanding Actor and Actress in a Lead Role**  
The National High School Musical Theatre Awards will go virtual in 2021, and Starlight intends to participate. Each school participating in the Blue Star Awards will have the opportunity to submit qualifying roles (list provided by Starlight) for consideration in these two categories. To do so, schools must declare a musical (whether staged or not) and cast the show with students. Leads will then be required to submit a self-taped audition video, which includes a song from their character/musical and a contrasting musical theatre song (a cut of 2.5 minutes or less). A panel of adjudicators will watch and score all student submissions, and eight nominees will be selected in each category. Submission steps will be provided to teachers at a later date.
- B. Performance Scholarships**
1. Schools may submit up to three students for consideration. Submitted students must provide a self-taped audition video of two musical theatre 32-bar cuts and a theatre resume. From these submissions, Starlight’s production team will select 48 students to participate in three production numbers at the May ceremony. Submission steps will be provided to teachers at a later date.
  2. Students submitted for Outstanding Actor or Actress in a Lead Role cannot also be submitted for the performance scholarships.

**C. Technical Achievement Awards**

1. These awards recognize students who have given their time and talent in a backstage capacity (i.e. stage manager, crew head, board operator) or design field (i.e. lighting, scenic, costume). Students at all high school grade levels may be considered.
2. To be considered for an award, the following must be submitted by **March 22, 2021**:
  - a. Technical Achievement Award Application;
  - b. a recommending teacher letter of 500 words or less discussing the student's contributions to the theatre program;
  - c. a one-page essay written by the student, detailing their contributions to their school's theatre program, addressing what they learned from the experience, and offering specifics about their applicable backstage and/or design contributions; and
  - d. portfolio of support materials pertaining to the student's technical area(s) of expertise.

**D. Rising Star Scholarships**

1. Two \$2,500 Rising Star Scholarships are awarded to two high school seniors who, during their high school career, made outstanding contributions to their high school's musical theatre program.
2. Applicants do not have to intend to study Theatre or Musical Theatre in college to be considered.
3. To be considered for a scholarship, the following must be submitted by **March 22, 2021**:
  - a. Rising Star Scholarship Application;
  - b. a high school academic transcript (copy acceptable);
  - c. a résumé of work, volunteer and theatrical activities;
  - d. an acceptance letter/proof of admission to an institution of higher education;
  - e. a student essay of 500 words or less that describes their musical theatre experiences at their high school, including what they learned because of these experiences, and why they chose their anticipated major; and
  - f. a recommending teacher letter of 500 words or less describing the student's participation in and contribution to the school's musical theatre program during their high school career.

**E. Community Impact Award**

1. This award recognizes a high school musical theatre program that found a way/s to connect to their community, whether through productions or troupe initiatives.
2. To be considered for an award, the following must be submitted by **March 22, 2021**:
  - a. a one- to two-page summary of your community engagement initiative, including examples of cast/crew/troupe participation;
  - b. additional supplemental materials (flyers, letter of support from the community, project outline, etc.); and
  - c. one to four photos from the project.

**F. Dream Production Award**

1. Students (up to two from each school, submitted individually by coordinating teachers) are invited to participate in this new challenge. A musical will be announced on the Blue Star Awards Facebook Group page. Students will have three weeks to complete a design/creative brief, artist statement and initial design/creative work for this dream production. Eight nominees will be selected; one winner will receive a trophy and \$500 scholarship.
2. This new award was designed as an opportunity to highlight the creativity of students working in the areas of design, direction, and/or choreography.

## **Section 4 – Nominations**

**A. Blue Star Awards Nomination Committee**

1. Starlight convenes a Nomination Committee of selected adjudicators to review and evaluate all submitted materials. Starlight provides oversight but makes no contribution to decisions made by the committee.
2. Once a category has been reviewed, Nomination Committee members privately complete a top-pick sheet, ranking their personal preferred entries in a given category from 1 to 8 (with 1 being their top choice). Starlight then assigns a numeric component to each place (1<sup>st</sup> place gets 8 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place gets 7 points...). The students receiving the highest cumulative totals in a category become the nominees.
3. Once nominees are determined in all categories, Nomination Committee members receive a final ballot of all categories. Nominees are listed in alphabetical order on the ballot *without* the cumulative point totals they previously received. On this final ballot, members privately vote for their top choice in each category; majority vote wins the category. In the case of a tie, the nominee with the highest cumulative point total from the top-pick scoring heading into the final ballot is declared the winner. If the tied nominees also tied in the previous cumulative point total, they will both be declared winners in that category.

**B. Receiving Nominations**

1. When the review process is complete, official nominations are made and announced to all schools and the general public in late April/early May.
2. Schools that earned nominations will receive banners listing nominations received and a nomination packet including all necessary Blue Star Awards Ceremony information.
3. For schools receiving one or more nominations, a Nominee Information Questionnaire will be provided. This form is to be completed and returned to Starlight. As indicated on the form, the school must provide production photos for all nominated performance and technical categories.
4. For all nominees performing songs from their production in the Blue Star Awards Ceremony (Actor/Actress in a Lead Role), their schools will be contacted by Starlight with music requirements.

## Section 5 – Ceremony

- A. The 2021 Blue Star Awards Ceremony will be held at Starlight Theatre on the evening of Thursday, May 20, 2021.** The ceremony date is always dependent upon Starlight’s annual production calendar.
- B. Admission, Seating and Parking**
1. Admission to the Blue Star Awards Ceremony is free and open to the public. However, the 2021 ceremony will be a ticketed event to help accommodate guidelines for reduced seating capacity and social distancing. Tickets will be available in the spring.
  2. All vehicles, with the exception of buses, are charged a nominal parking fee.
- C. Outstanding Actor/Actress in a Lead Role Nominees**
1. All nominees for Outstanding Actor/Actress in a Lead Role are invited to perform their signature songs during the Blue Star Awards Ceremony in a medley arranged by Starlight’s music director.
  2. A new set of adjudicators will watch the previously submitted nominee videos and the live ceremony medleys. At intermission, these adjudicators will determine four finalists (two actors and two actresses) who will be announced at the beginning of Act II. Each finalist will take the stage to perform his/her 2.5-minute musical theatre piece. Following all performances, the adjudicators will select the winners to represent Starlight at NHSMTA. Runners-up in each category will receive a \$250 scholarship.
  3. If one or both of the Lead Role winners submitted a role that is not included in NHSMTA’s Qualifying Shows and Roles list, he/she will remain the Blue Star Award Winner but the corresponding runner-up will attend NHSMTA.
  4. Nominees are required to participate in rehearsals for the medley at Starlight prior to the ceremony. Rehearsal schedules are distributed when nominations are announced.
- D. Performance Scholarship Nominees**
1. All nominees for performance scholarships are required to attend rehearsals at Starlight prior to the ceremony. Rehearsal dates and times are listed as part of the submission process to avoid conflicts. Final rehearsal schedules are distributed when nominations are announced.
  2. Based upon the submissions, rehearsal process and performances, six students (two from each production number) will be awarded \$500 scholarships to use toward future training.
- E. Blue Star Award Winners**
1. Each individual award category (i.e. Outstanding Actor/Actress in a Lead Role) is presented with a trophy that should be kept by the winning student.
  2. Group award categories, such as the Community Impact Award, are presented with a trophy intended to go to the school to be displayed as part of its theatre’s history.
  3. Starlight plans to participate in the 2021 National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA), which will take place virtually in June, and will be represented by the Outstanding Actor and Actress in a Lead Role winners.