2017-2018 Family of the Year
Essay Contest Application & Guidelines

The UTSA Family of the Year essay contest is intended to celebrate the supportive role families play in the lives of students and the University community. At UTSA, *family* is defined as individuals and group members who support their student. Family members include parents, spouses, partners, siblings, grandparents, cousins, extended relations, and close friends.

All current, full time UTSA, good standing students for fall 2017, are eligible to nominate their own or any family by submitting a completed application and essay by **5pm on Friday, September 8, 2017** to Orientation & Family Programs. The nominated family must have a membership with the UTSA Family Association. For more information on UTSA’s Family Association and Family Association Membership please visit [www.utsa.edu/family](http://www.utsa.edu/family).

For fall 2017, the Family Association will award one family the title of **2017-2018 Family of the Year**. Again, deadline is **5pm on Friday, September 8, 2017**.

**Contest Guidelines**

All applicants must complete the 2017-2018 Family of the Year Essay Contest Application along with a Family of the Year Essay. The essay must be no more than two pages in length, typed, double spaced, with one inch margins and using a 12 point font. Applicants must address the Family of the Year Essay Prompts which include:

- **How your family has supported your academic career and journey**
- **How your family’s support has impacted your success and experience at UTSA**
- **How your family has shown they have the ultimate enthusiasm and love for UTSA**

All applicants must also be available to attend the Family of the Year Recognition Ceremony at the 2017 Family Weekend Kick Off Dinner where they will be an honored guest and recognized formally as the 2017-2018 Family of the Year. The dates are TBA. Submit completed application and essay using any one of the methods listed below:

**Mail to:**
UTSA
Orientation & Family Programs
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

**Email to:**
family@utsa.edu

**Fax to:**
210.458.7477

**Complete Form Online:**
UTSA Family Association RowdyLink
Essays will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Evidence of family's support for the student applicant’s academic career and journey
- Evidence of family’s support at UTSA
- Evidence of family's enthusiasm for UTSA
- Creativity
- Grammar

A selection committee consisting of UTSA faculty, staff and administrators will review all submissions. Once submitted, all applications and essays will become property of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

For information on UTSA’s Family Association or to become a member visit [www.utsa.edu/family](http://www.utsa.edu/family).

**Prizes**

The winner of the contest will receive a total of prizes valued at over $1000, items may include:

- A gift basket with various UTSA Gifts
- A gift certificate to a San Antonio Hotel
- Six suite tickets to a UTSA Football Game
- Six tickets to a UTSA Alumni Association Tailgate
- A commemorative Family of the Year plaque and Photo Frame
- Your Family’s photo and/or essay excerpts Featured on The Family Connection newsletter and on the Orientation and Family Programs’ Wall of Fame
2017-2018 Family of the Year Essay Contest Application

Student Information

Student Name: ____________________________

Last       First       Middle Initial

Address: ____________________________________________________________

Street     City         State         Zip

Preferred Phone: _______________   myUTSA Email: _________________________________

Banner ID#: @ _______________   Number of hours enrolled for fall 2017: __________

Hometown: _________________________   Classification/Number of Hours Earned: __________

Family Information

Number of Family Members nominated including self: __________ (Max Number is 5)

Name each family member nominated, relationship to student, and state if member is UTSA Alum:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>UTSA Alum/Graduation Year</th>
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Essay Information

The essay must be no more than two pages in length, typed, double spaced, with one inch margins and using a 12 point font.

Essays will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Evidence of family’s support for the student applicant’s academic career and journey
- Evidence of family’s support at UTSA
- Evidence of family’s enthusiasm for UTSA
- Creativity
- Grammar

Please submit a separate page for your Family of the Year Essay and attach it to the Family of the Year Application.

Deadline

The deadline to submit a completed application and essay is 5pm on Friday, September 8, 2017.

Disciplinary Standing Release and Authorization to Check GPA

I authorize Student Conduct and Community Standards to release any confidential files or information concerning my disciplinary record to Orientation and Family Programs.
I understand that this information will be requested upon application for the 2016-2017 Family of the Year Contest. I further authorize Orientation and Family Programs to check my GPA, (which must be either at or above a cumulative 2.0).
I understand that I must be in good standing with the University during all phases of the selection process and thereafter.

If you agree with all of the above statements, please sign: ____________________________

Questions

Questions about the Family of the Year Contest or the selection process should be addressed to Orientation and Family Programs at family@utsa.edu.