



NAIA DR. LEROY WALKER CHARACTER AWARD



The NAIA Dr. Leroy Walker Character Award is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the NAIA. All NAIA student-athletes are eligible for this award.

Please note the Nomination Procedure, Criteria for Selection, Selection Procedures and Nature of the Award listed below. Inquiries concerning this award program or the nomination form should be directed to:

NAIA Dr. Leroy Walker Character Award
NAIA National Office
23500 W. 105th Street
Olathe, KS 66061
Phone: 913-791-0044

A. About Dr. Leroy Walker

Dr. Walker is President *emeritus* of the United States Olympic Committee and served as president through the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games. Dr. Walker is a graduate of Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and is a former president of the NAIA. In 1995, Dr. Walker was recognized with the Service Master-NAIA Distinguished Graduate of the Year Award.

B. Nomination Procedure

1. Any NAIA active member institution may nominate one student-athlete by completing and submitting the enclosed nomination form with the required supporting materials to your Region Chair.

Please note that the nomination form must be signed by the President, Athletic Director and Campus Character Representative or Faculty Athletics Representative and be postmarked no later than **February 1, each year.**

2. The required supporting materials must include:
 - a. A letter from the institution's registrar to confirm the nominee's grade point average which is required to be a 3.0 or higher.
 - b. A listing of all academic, athletic and/or community recognition achieved by the nominee at the time of his/her nomination. We encourage that this is done not in a resume format, but listed out by area and year.

- c. A minimum of three letters of recommendation, to include a letter from the nominee's coach and two other representatives of the institution and/or the nominee's home community. **We encourage a teammate to write about the impact this person had had on his/her development as a student-athlete.**
- d. An essay written by the nominee based on one of five core values of the NAIA *Champions of Character* initiative and how sport has influenced that value in his/her life. Not to exceed 300 words in length.

C. Criteria for Selection

1. Nominee must be a representative of an NAIA institution as a student-athlete.
2. The nominee must be in attendance at the nominating institution a minimum of *three* terms at the time of the nomination.
3. The nominee must be "outstanding" in:
 - a. academic achievement (Nominee must have a 3.0 G.P.A.)
 - b. campus leadership
 - c. community leadership
 - d. embracing the five core character values of the NAIA's *Champions of Character* initiative

D. Selection Procedure

1. Nominations should be sent to your Region Chair no later than **February 1**. Each region will have a committee review the nominations and make a selection on behalf of the region.
2. The supporting materials for each regional representative selected will be forwarded to the National Office for review by the Character Committee.
3. Each of the 14 regional representatives will receive a certificate from the National Office.
4. The Champions of Character Committee will announce the NAIA Dr. Leroy Walker Character Award recipient no later than April 1, each year.

E. Nature of Award

1. In the recipient's name, a \$1,000 cash award will be given to the general scholarship fund of the recipient's institution.
2. The recipient will receive a specially engraved plaque as a permanent memento of the honor.
3. Awardees are expected to attend two significant award ceremonies. Transportation will be provided. One in conjunction with the annual NAIA National Convention (normally held in March) and the other at the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA) Awards Banquet held during the summer.

**NAIA DR. LEROY WALKER CHARACTER AWARD
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee's Full Name: _____

Institution: _____

Year: _____
(Junior or Senior)

Sports: _____

Support Materials Enclosed:

_____ Letter from registrar

_____ List of achievements demonstrating sportsmanship, leadership and scholarship

_____ Three letters of recommendation supporting the nominee

_____ Essay by nominee

Signatures:

Nominating Person

Phone Number

President/CEO

Athletic Director

Campus Character Representative

(if same as athletic director, please have FAR sign)

**All materials should be sent to your Region Chair and be postmarked by
February 1, each year.**