Book Award Program

The Dartmouth Alumni Club Book Award Program has two goals: to recognize and reward high school students (usually juniors) who have excelled both academically and in their extracurricular activities; and to encourage these talented students to consider attending Dartmouth.

Book award recipients are well-rounded, high-caliber students -- in other words, potential candidates for the next Dartmouth class. Although the book award does not guarantee admission to the College, award winners are encouraged to consider Dartmouth. This program is a very effective enrollment tool and promotes the name of Dartmouth College among the high school students residing in the various participating club areas.

A book chosen by the club is presented to the recipients at either a school ceremony or a club reception. Past awards have included a volume of Robert Frost's poetry, one of Dr. Seuss' books, "A River Runs Through It" by Norman Maclean '24 and other books by alumni and faculty authors. The prize volume will feature a bookplate inscribed with the winner's name.

Many clubs have individual alumni who each sponsor one or more book awards so that club treasuries are not depleted.

The key to the success of this program is the follow-up contact between the local alumni and the recipients. Thus, many clubs invite their book award recipients to their annual dinner, summer picnic, fall receptions, and various other events to give them exposure to Dartmouth College.

How the Program Works

- A club officer contacts the local schools in the fall to discuss the book award program.
- The appropriate school official (principal, guidance counselor, faculty committee, etc.) select an award recipient at least one month before the formal presentation.
- The school notifies the club of the winner's name at least one month before the formal presentation, to give the club time to inscribe the book with the winner’s name.
- If possible, the award is given at the high school's spring award assembly. The award can be made by a club officer, the district enrollment director or a school official.
- When possible, winning students from the entire area are honored at a club event in the late spring of their junior year or in the early fall of their senior year.
- A Book Award Program report is sent by the club to the Communities Team which in turn will share the award winner’s names to the Admissions Office.
- Supplies such as book plates and admissions brochures can be ordered from the Communities Team by sending an email to ARCommunities@dartmouth.edu.