

# Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District 2019 Scholarship Essay Contest Guidelines and Rules

The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District (PBUWCD) is sponsoring an essay contest and encourages all seniors within the District who plan to attend college to participate. The PBUWCD Essay Contest increases the awareness of groundwater issues by rewarding high school students for high quality research and writing. The \$2,000 scholarship can be applied toward tuition for any college, community college, or training institution. A panel of independent judges will review all essays and score them based on content, accuracy of information, originality, grammar, quality of research, and style. Essays must discuss groundwater issues; however, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water related field to apply.

## 1) Eligibility

- a. The essay contest is open to high school seniors who will be attending college in the Fall of 2019. Students must currently be attending a High School within the PBUWCD's boundary. These four high schools are: Forsan, Grady, Sands, and Stanton.

## 2) Essay Guidelines

- a. Format:
  - i. Typewritten in Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 12 point text.
  - ii. The essay must have a **minimum** of 1000 words.
  - iii. Please do not include images or photos. Graphs and maps are acceptable.
  - iv. References **must** accompany the paper in the form of a bibliography page **and** footnotes must be used in the essay. Reference material may be acquired from the Permian Basin UWCD office located in Stanton. The library and Internet offer many additional resources. Any essay that is submitted and does not include references or that is plagiarized will automatically be disregarded!
- b. Topic:

What is the preferred method of groundwater management in Texas? Who owns the groundwater? How does a groundwater district manage and protect the groundwater resources for the landowners and all the other water users?

## 3) Submission Guidelines

- a. A completed application form that contains contestant's name and contact information should accompany each essay. Essays should be titled, but the contestant's name should **not** appear anywhere on the pages of the essay so that they may remain anonymous during the judging. (Upon arrival at the District Office, essays will be numbered and the application will be separated from the essay. This is to ensure that judges will not know who authored the essay).
- b. Applications and essays may be stapled together and should **not** to be put in a folder or slick report cover.
- c. The essays are due no later than **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. They must be submitted by the due date to the student's school counselor by the close of school or the Permian Basin UWCD office at 708 W Saint Peter St., Stanton, TX by 5 P.M.

#### 4) Selection of Judges

- a. District staff will be in charge of selecting judges each scholastic year to score essays.
- b. The judges will be individuals who live or work within the counties containing eligible schools.
- c. Judges for the PBUWCD Scholarship must not be aware of the author of any essay or have advised any contestant on the writing of an essay for the PBUWCD contest.
- d. No individual may be a judge if they are related in any way to a contestant.

#### 5) Awards

- a. Amounts:  
**One** scholarship of \$2,000 will be given to the top essay from **each** of the four District schools
- b. Payments:
  - i. Scholarship will be paid to the college, university, or training institute of the winner's choice to be applied towards their education or training for the 2019-2020 school year.
  - ii. The winner must request that the District send payment for the total of his or her award by August 31<sup>st</sup> following the award of the scholarship. Otherwise, the award money will revert back to the District.
  - iii. At the time of request, if the winner is under 18, a letter of acknowledgement signed by the winner's parent or legal guardian must accompany the request.
  - iv. The request must be submitted in writing and contain the information of the college the winner will be attending, the address of the Registrar, and proof of registration for the college they are attending (must include the student's college ID #).
  - v. The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse distribution of funds if minimum guidelines and rules are not satisfied.
  - vi. In the event that the winning recipient does not attend college in the fall or follow through with all requirements, then the scholarship will be awarded to a runner-up from the disqualified student's school. The runner-ups will be pre-selected by the judges while they are selecting the winning essays.

#### 6) Winning Essays

- a. The District reserves the right to reprint in summary, part, or whole the winning essay of its scholarship contest and any photos of the winner.
- b. Winning essays from other essay contests may not be entered or re-entered in the PBUWCD scholarship contest.

## Water Science Resources

Groundwater Foundation

<http://www.groundwater.org>

Southern Ogallala Conservation & Outreach Program

<http://www.savingh2o.org/resources.html>

Take Care of Texas

<http://www.takecareoftexas.org/teachers>

Texas Water Development Board

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/index.asp>

Water.org

<http://water.org/news/lesson-plans/>

Texas Living Water Project

<http://texaslivingwaters.org>

Texas Water Resources Education

<http://texaswater.tamu.edu>