



Texas Lions MD-2 Opportunities for Youth Contests
"OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD"
"Innovation and Leading Change Today"



2020-2021 Contest Rules

1. Contest Rules

- a. Contestants shall be evaluated on a 750 to 1000 - word essay, their biographical information statement, community service, experience/participation leadership information, three letters of recommendation, their high school grade point average and a personal interview.

- b. The following criteria shall be used for judging the contestant:

Fifteen percent (15%) — 750 to 1000 word essay on “ **Innovation and Leading Change Today**”. Contestants should detail in the essay how he/she has used innovation to lead change in their school or community activities to create a positive impact and make a difference in people’s lives. The essay must be well organized, have good vocabulary and conform to required length.

- i. Five percent (5%) — Grade point average from school transcript.
 - ii. Fifteen percent (15%) — Three letters of recommendation
 - iii. Thirty-five percent (35%) — biographical information statement, community service, leadership experience/participation information.
 - iv. Thirty percent (30%) — Personal interview
- c. Judges shall be persons who are knowledgeable about community service and high school level leadership.
 - d. All MD-2 contests shall be conducted in the English language.
 - e. The contest area must have good acoustics, be free from outside noises and disturbances, and have controlled access.
 - f. Order of appearance before the judging panel will be determined in advance at the direction of the State OFY Chair.
 - g. Contestants shall remain outside the contest area until invited to enter by the Contest Official.
 - h. Audience during contests will be at discretion of the State OFY Chair.
 - i. When audience is allowed during the contest, the audience will be informed before the first contestant to not applaud at the end of the interview and reminded before each contestant interview of

the same requirement.

- j. The audience will be asked to turn off any cell phones and/or electronic devices during the contest time. Failure to comply with this rule could result in having audience member leave contest room.
- k. Contestants will not give any self-introduction but shall state their name and the interview shall proceed.
- l. No one will be allowed to either enter or leave the contest area during the constant's interview process.
- m. The audience will be asked to leave the contest area at the end of each speech to allow judges time to score essays based on contest criteria.
- n. The winners will be announced during the Texas Lions MD-2 Youth Luncheon at noon. All contestants will be recognized and receive a certificate of participation at the luncheon.
- o. The 1st place winner will present his/her acceptance speech and present the winning essay at that time. In addition to scholarship awards, winning contestants will receive a plaque or trophy and a winner's certificate.

2. Awards

- a. The 1st place winner will win a \$3,000.00 scholarship.
- b. The 2nd place winner will win a \$2,000.00 scholarship.
- c. The 3rd place winner will win a \$1,000.00 scholarship
- d. To collect the scholarship award, the Contestant must complete the following process:
 - i. Contestant winner or runners-up must complete the Scholarship Request Form along with proof of registration information from a university, college, junior college or vocational school.
 - ii. The information should be sent to the state office along with any supplemental information needed by the institution (i.e. scholarship forms, etc). Send request for payment to:

Texas Lions MD-2 State Office
P.O. Box 294509
Kerrville, TX 78029-4509
Phone: 830-257-6557
[email: lionsstateoffice@md2TXlions.org](mailto:lionsstateoffice@md2TXlions.org)

- 3. Payment will be made directly to the designated school.
- 4. The scholarship awards must be collected no later than two years following the recipient's graduation from High School.
- 5. Rules of Eligibility for Contestants

- a. A District may sponsor no more than one Contestant in each contest by submitting a completed entry application (containing all requested signatures), associated documents, and the entry fee to the MD-2 Contest Chairperson prior to the entry deadline.
- b. A false statement on the entry application, or associated document, causes disqualification of the Contestant, with the entry fee being forfeited.
- c. There shall be no refund of any entry fee.
- d. Each contestant shall have placed first in the District contest during the current Lions' year.
 - i. When a first placed district contestant is unable to participate in the MD-2 contest, the first alternate contestant from that District, when approved by the MD-2 Contest Chairman, may enter the contest using the original entrant's sponsorship.
- e. Each contestant must be or have been a regularly enrolled student in a public high school or comparable educational program, located in Texas.
- f. Each contestant must be a junior, senior or immediate graduate at the time of the MD-2 contest.

6. Responsibilities of Contestant

- a. Each Contestant shall be required to submit the following to their sponsoring Lions Club and/or District.
 - i. **State Contest Application (mandatory to be completed online and copied; no handwritten applications will be accepted).**
 - ii. **Two (2) high quality wallet/passport photographs (such as current school picture) that are of the head-and-shoulders, glossy and in color. No paper copies of photos will be accepted. Photos not meeting this requirement will not be included in contest souvenir booklet.**
 - iii. **Signed Copy of the Code of Conduct and Chaperone Guidelines.**
 - iv. **Medical Power of Attorney designating his/her Chaperone as the Primary Responsible Party and the State Contest Chair as the Secondary Responsible Party.**
 - v. **Four (4) typed double spaced copies of your 750 to 1000 word essay with word count on last page of essay. Essay changes are not permitted once received by State Contest Coordinator.**

- vi. **Four (4) typed copies of biographical information statement, community service, leadership experience/participation experience**
- vii. **Four (4) copies of the three (3) letters of recommendation**
- viii. **One (1) certified high school transcript, plus three (3) copies.**
- b. Attend the Lions MD-2 Texas State Convention in Waco, Texas on May 21-22, 2021.
- c. Contestants are required to attend an orientation held the evening of Friday, May 21, 2021 at a time set forth by the State Chair.
 - i. Exemption of this requirement may be granted prior to the meeting by their State Contest Coordinator or the State Contest Chair.
 - ii. Contestants will visit the presentation area and ask any questions they may still have about the contest.
 - iii. Contests will be held the morning of Saturday, May 22, 2021
- d. All contestants must agree to be available, upon request to participate in Lions MD-2 events and activities during the period from immediately after the contest until the end of the following year's contest.
- e. **Online Contest.** As an option, Contestants must be available to participate in this contest using online video communication tools. Online video communication tools may be used at the discretion of the State OFY Chair.

The contest deadlines, orientation and contest date will be the same as for the on-site contests unless changed by State OFY Chair. Contestants and their Club Sponsors will be provided with online video contest details by State OFY Chair at least 20 days before the contest. First place winner will present the winning essay virtually during the MD-2 Lions Convention.

7. Responsibilities of the Sponsoring District

- a. An entry fee of \$250 to be attached to each participant's application. Check to be made payable to **Texas State Convention Fund.**
- b. The sponsoring district must make sure all documents listed above (Items 6(a)(i-viii)) are completed, have all required signatures and are sent to the Outstanding Youth State Coordinator. **The deadline to postmark all applications will be Monday, April 19, 2021 for all Districts.**
- c. Complete Sponsorship District Responsibility List and attach to contestant's application/contest package. **This is mandatory.**

8. Chaperone/Sponsoring Club and or District Responsibilities

- a. All contestants shall be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated chaperone from their sponsoring club or District to the convention.
- b. The Texas Lions MD-2 State Convention will be responsible for providing 3 meals and one night's lodging before the contest at the convention for the contestant.
- c. The sponsoring District shall be responsible for all expenses not paid by the Texas Lions MD-2 Convention for their contestant.
- d. Comply with requirements as set forth in the Texas Lions MD-2 Opportunities for Youth contest Chaperone Guidelines.

9. Contest Coordinator Contact Information

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Flower Mound, Texas 75022
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