



Texas Lions MD-2
Opportunities for Youth Contest
"DRUG AWARENESS SPEECH"
2025-2026 **ONLINE** Contest Rules



“The Impact of Weight Loss Drugs on Adolescents”

1. Speech Subject:

Weight loss is becoming more prevalent among adolescents. This topic asks you To weigh the benefits as well as the risks of prescription drugs for adolescents. Specifically examine the potential benefits of medications like GLP agonistics (Liraglutide and Semilattices) in treating obesity in adolescents. Discuss the potential risks and side effects including gastrointestinal issues, gallbladder disease, increased risks of fracture, and pancreatitis. Analyze the long-term impact of these drugs on adolescent growth development, bone density and muscle mass. Debate whether weight loss is always the safest way or most effective method of promoting adolescent health.

2.

Contest Rules

- a. The title of the Contestant's speech is not required to be the same as the Subject for the speech. Contestants should be creative in the selection of a speech title and set the tone for their presentation with the title they choose.
- b. The presentation should analyze the problem given in the subject and present a solution or solutions to the problem.
- c. Research for this topic can be conducted by interviewing school officials, teachers, judges, law enforcement personnel, probation personnel, counselors, juvenile court officials, legislators, medical personnel and by using the internet and the library.
- d. The topic is broad and allows the contestant considerable leeway in the selection of their solution or solutions.
- e. Sources of data and quotes should be identified by title, author, and date published (year if known).
- f. Creative, innovative, practical, and reasonable ideas are welcome.
- g. The speech will be from five (5) to seven (7) minutes in length and be consistent with the written essay submitted for the contest.
 - i. A monitor will signal contestants at five (5) minutes and at six and one half (6 1/2) minutes.
 - ii. At seven (7) minutes, the monitor will signal, and five (5) points will be deducted from the contestant's score.

- iii. A speech of less than five (5) or more than seven and a half (7 1/2) minutes will be disqualified.
- iv. Should a disturbance occur during a speech; the contest monitor will adjust the time accordingly.
- h. Notes and cue cards may not be used at District or MD-2 State contests. Pre-recorded speeches are not allowed for online contest.
- i. All MD-2 contests shall be conducted in the English language.

Judges should be persons who are knowledgeable of the subject.

- j. Order of appearance before the judging panel will be determined in advance at the direction of the State OFY Chair.

3. 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 runner-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

lionsstateoffice@texaslions.org

- 4. Payment will be made directly to the scholarship/financial aid office of the designated school.
- 5. The scholarship awards must be collected no later than two years following the recipient's graduation from High School.

6. 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, associated document, or violation of contest rules 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 fee.

- ii. If District has only one contestant, District may sponsor the contestant in the MD-2 Contest.
- 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 or senior at the time of the MD-2 contest.

7. Responsibilities of Contestants

- a. Each Contestant shall be required to submit the following to his or her sponsoring Lions Club and/or District.
 - i. **Four (4) typed copies** of State Contest Application (mandatory to be completed online; 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, must be on photo paper. Photos not meeting this requirement may not be able to be included in the convention or contest souvenir booklet.
 - iii. Signed Copy of the Code of Conduct and Chaperone Guidelines for **the Winning Contestant.**
 - iv. **Medical Power of Attorney** designating his/her Chaperone as the Primary Responsible Party for the **Winning Contestant.**
 - v. **Typed Copies of the Speech. Four (4) typed copies of the speech will be required for judging purposes and will be used for publications and contest promotion purposes.**

Changes to copy of speech are not permitted once received by State Contest Coordinator.

- b. The winning contestant must agree to be available at the State Opportunities for Youth Luncheon and 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.
- c. **Orientation** will be held on **Saturday, May 9, 2026, and the Contest will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026**, at times set forth by State Contest Chair.
Prior to orientation and the contest, contestants, parents, and Sponsoring Lions Club contacts will be provided with additional instructions by the State Contest Coordinator.
- d. **Online Contest.** Contestants must be able to participate in Orientation and the contest using **online** live audio and video communication tools. **Zoom** video conferencing will be used for the contest.
- e. **Basic guidelines** for the contest are as follows:
 - i. Contestants must have a computer or access to a computer with a wi-fi connection, video capability (webcam) and microphone to ensure that contestant's gestures and facial expressions will be captured by their camera and their voice will be clearly captured by the microphone while delivering their speech.
 - ii. Contestants will be sent an email invitation by the State IT Chair to participate in the contest and be ready at their designated time.
 - iii. Contestants must wear business attire for the online contest.
 - iv. Contestants' speaking area must be free of distractions, noise and if necessary, the State Contest Chair will advise contestants on additional lighting needs.
 - v. Contestants' speaking area should allow for maximum view of contestants without sacrificing audio quality while presenting his or her speech.
 - vi. Once a contestant presents his or her essay or speech, he or she will be placed in a waiting room until the conclusion of the contest.

- vii. If technology fails during the contest and the State Contest Chair determines that the contest can no longer continue, the State Contest Chair may pause the contest until the technology issue is resolved. A contestant may resume his or her speech or essay at the point at which the technology failed.
- viii. After the conclusion of the contest and the results have been determined, all contestants will be invited to rejoin the online contest room, at which time, the 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd place Winners will be announced by the State Contest Coordinator.
- ix. First Place Winner will be required to present his or her speech at the MD-2 Texas Lions Convention Opportunities for Youth Luncheon on Saturday, May 28, 2026, in Odessa, Texas. First Place Winners who do not attend the State Convention to present their essays will forfeit their scholarship award unless there is a medical or family emergency. High school graduation or school trips do not qualify as an emergency.
- x. All contestants will be recognized and receive a certificate of participation. In addition to scholarship awards, winning contestants will receive an award and a winner's certificate.

8. Responsibilities of the Sponsoring District

- a. An entry fee of \$250 to be attached to each participant's application. Check to be payable to **Texas State Convention Fund**.
- b. The sponsoring district must make sure all documents listed above (Items 7 (a)(i-v) are completed, have all required signatures, and are sent to the Drug Awareness Speech State Coordinator.
- c. **The deadline to postmark all applications will be Monday, April 20, 2026, for all Districts.**
- d. Complete Sponsorship District Responsibility List and attach to contestant's application/contest package. **This is mandatory.**

9. Chaperone/Sponsoring Club and or District Responsibilities

- a. Winning contestant 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 one night's lodging before the contest as well as the meal during the Youth Luncheon at the MD-2 State Convention for the winning contestant.
- c. The sponsoring District shall be responsible for all expenses not paid by the MD-2 State Convention for their contestant.
- d. Comply with requirements as set forth in the Texas Lions MD-2 Opportunities for Youth Contest Chaperone Guidelines.

**e. Texas Lions MD2 State Contest
Coordinator Contact information:**

PDG Janie Garza
P.O. Box 816
Sutherland Springs, Texas 78161
pdgjanie2a2@gmail.com
210-643-3217

Note: Include all checks in with th completed forms