



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST RULES

1) ELIGIBILITY

- a) The essay contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the seven school districts overlapping the District boundary. These seven independent school districts are: Austin, Eanes, Dripping Springs, Hays Consolidated, Del Valle, Bastrop, and Lockhart.
- b) Students must attend (or have attended) a public, private, or other accredited school located within the boundaries of those school districts.
- c) Students should be currently attending high school or alternatively have graduated or completed their G.E.D. within the academic year for which the scholarship contest is being held. (If G.E.D. will be taken after the submission deadline, proof of intent to take G.E.D. should be submitted with application. G.E.D. students who are awarded a scholarship must submit a copy of their G.E.D. certificate prior to District disbursement of funds.)
- d) Students who have previously been awarded a BSEACD scholarship are not eligible.

2) JUDGING CRITERIA

Essays will be judged on the basis of originality (30%), quality and style of writing (20%), grammar and spelling (20%), accuracy of information (20%), and bibliography and proper citation of information used in the essay (10%). All applications must also include a statement of purpose and a high school transcript.

3) ESSAY GUIDELINES

- a) Format:
 - i) Page margins of one inch on all sides, typewritten in Times or Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 12-point text.
 - ii) Between 1,000 and 1,500 words OR no more than six pages single-sided or three pages double-sided.
 - iii) Please do not include images or photos. Graphs and maps are acceptable.
 - iv) Please include a bibliography and cite your sources.**
- b) Topic:

The topic of essays for the contest must discuss general groundwater issues that may include (but are not limited to) non-point source pollution, pollution prevention, water conservation, and hydrogeology.

4) 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 need not be put in a folder or slick report cover.
- c) Essays must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2010.

5) SELECTION OF JUDGES

- a) District staff will solicit input from the Board of Directors and will select between six and ten judges each scholastic year to score essays. Only one District staff person and either one District Board member or Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) member may judge essays in any scholastic year.
- b) The additional judges will be individuals who live or work within the counties containing eligible schools.
- c) The same individuals may not be judges in consecutive years of the scholarship contest.
- d) Judges for the BSEACD Scholarship contest must not be aware of the author of any essay or have advised any contestant on the writing of an essay for the BSEACD contest.
- e) No individual may be a judge if they are related in any way to a contestant.

6) JUDGING

- a) Each judge will review and score essays on the basis of the criteria outlined above.
- b) An average score for each essay will be calculated and used to determine winners.

7) AWARDS

- a) Amounts:
One scholarship of \$1,500 will be given to the top essay as determined through the judging process described above.
- b) Payments:
 - i) Scholarship will be paid to the college, university, training, or other educational entity of the winner's choice to be applied towards their education or training for the 2009-2010 school year (or the 2010-2011 school year if the winner is currently a junior).
 - ii) The winner must request that the District send payment for the total of his or her award by August 31st following the award of the scholarship. Otherwise, the award money will revert back to the District.
 - iii) At the time of the request, if the winner is under 18, a letter of acknowledgment signed by the winner's parent or legal guardian must accompany the request.
 - iv) The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse distribution of funds if minimum guidelines are not satisfied (i.e., essays must discuss groundwater issues as stated under essay guidelines and must exhibit a good faith effort on the part of the applicant).

8) 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 prior BSEACD scholarship contest years may not be re-entered in the BSEACD scholarship contest.
- c) Winning essays from other essay contests may not be entered or re-entered in the BSEACD scholarship contest.



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BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPLICATION FORM FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Name of Applicant: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s): _____

Mailing Address (if different than above): _____

Parent's Work Phone and Email: _____

Applicant's High School: _____ School District: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____ OR Expected date of G.E.D. _____

How did you hear about the scholarship program? _____

Scholarship Application Checklist (please mark that you have included all 5 elements):

| | |
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| | Completed Scholarship Application Form |
| | Statement of Purpose – This document should be no more than one typed page and should discuss the applicant's interest and reasons for applying. DO NOT include your name on this page, but DO include the title of your essay |
| | High School Transcript – Provide an official copy of your transcript or documentation regarding the intent to take the GED or copy of GED certificate |
| | Groundwater Essay – Essays must discuss general groundwater issues that may include, but are not limited to, non-point source pollution, pollution prevention, water conservation, or hydrogeology. |
| | Bibliography – Please cite your sources. |

Please staple your statement of purpose, high school transcript, and essay to this application and mail documents to Scholarship Contest, BSEACD, 1124 Regal Row, Austin, TX 78748 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2010.

I have read and agree to abide by the Rules of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District Scholarship Contest. In addition, I grant permission to the BSEACD to use part or all of my essay if it is a winner in any manner deemed appropriate by the District, which may include, but is not limited to, publication of the entire essay.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____