



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

KENT S. BUTLER MEMORIAL GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION FORM

Application Deadline: April 14, 2023

Scholarship Amount: \$2,500



Each year, the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD), in collaboration with our permittees, offers a college scholarship dedicated as a memorial scholarship honoring one of Austin's most influential environmental planners, Kent Butler. Dr. Butler specialized in bringing science and policy together. He encouraged open conversation, collaboration, and participation from all perspectives.

The Kent S. Butler Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest increases the awareness of groundwater issues by rewarding high school students for high quality research and writing. The \$2,500 scholarship can be applied toward tuition for any college, community college, or training institution.

A panel of independent judges reviews all essays and score them based on content, accuracy of information, originality, grammar, quality of research, and style. The judges represent a cross-section of skills and expertise.

Essays must generally discuss groundwater issues, which may include but are not limited to:

- Non-point source pollution
- Pollution prevention
- Water conservation
- Hydrogeology

While essays must focus on groundwater issues, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water-related field.

The essay contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the eight school districts overlapping the District boundary. These school districts are: Austin, Del Valle, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Hays Consolidated, Lockhart, San Marcos Consolidated, and Wimberley.

BSEACD is a groundwater conservation district charged by the Texas Legislature to preserve, conserve, and protect the aquifers and groundwater resources within its jurisdiction, which includes parts of three Central Texas counties. It is governed by a Board of five elected directors and staffed with hydrogeologists, groundwater regulatory compliance specialists, environmental educators, geospatial systems specialists, and administrative support personnel.



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APPLICATION FORM

Application Deadline: April 14, 2023

Scholarship Amount: \$2,500

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):

	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 email your statement of purpose, high school transcript, essay submission, and this application to edu@bseacd.org with the subject line 'Scholarship Contest'.
Applications must be emailed by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2023.

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 _____

BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
KENT S. BUTLER MEMORIAL
GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP
ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES

The District's college scholarship is dedicated as a memorial scholarship honoring one of Austin's most influential environmental planners, Kent Butler. Dr. Butler specialized in bringing science and policy together. He encouraged open conversation, collaboration, and participation from all perspectives. The Kent S. Butler Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest increases the awareness of groundwater issues by rewarding high school students for high quality research and writing. The \$2,500 scholarship can be applied toward tuition for any college, community college, or training institution. A panel of independent judges reviews all essays and score them based on content, accuracy of information, originality, grammar, quality of research, and style. The judges represent a cross-section of skills and expertise.

Essays must generally discuss groundwater issues, which may include but are not limited to non-point source pollution, pollution prevention, water conservation, hydrogeology, or other groundwater topic. While essays must focus on groundwater issues, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water-related field.

1) ELIGIBILITY

- a) The essay contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the eight school districts overlapping the District boundary. These eight independent school districts are: Austin, Del Valle, Dripping Springs, Eanes, Hays Consolidated, Lockhart, San Marcos Consolidated, and Wimberley.
- 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 the deadline.

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 Advisory Committee 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.
- c) If there are more than 20 applicants with eligible essays, essays will be divided into groups and scored by a subset of judges. The essays that received the top three highest scores out of each group will be submitted to a subcommittee of the Board plus the GM for final nomination.

7) AWARDS

- a) Amounts:
One scholarship of \$2,500 will be given to the top essay as determined through the judging process described above. (Number of selected winners is subject to funding.)
- 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 2023-2024 school year (or the 2024-2025 school year if the winner is currently a junior).
 - ii) Winners must request for the District to disburse payment for the total of the scholarship award no later than August 1st, 2023 following the award of the scholarship. This request must include contact information for the institution and financial aid mailing address, in addition to any other pertinent information (such as student ID number).
 - 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) If the request for payment is not received by the above deadline, the award money will revert back to the District. The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse distribution of funds if minimum guidelines and rules are not satisfied.

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.