



# Texas Lions District 2-E2 2020-2021 Opportunities for Youth Diabetes Awareness Essay Contest Subject and Rules

## A. Rules Applicable to Both the District 2-E2 and State Diabetes Essay Contests

### 1. **Essay Subject**

#### **The Importance of Diabetes Education in Texas Schools (K-12) – A Student’s Perspective**

Diabetes is a growing concern in the U.S.A. and around the world. One of the reasons why the incidence of diabetes is rising is because of lack of awareness. As a society, we should promote awareness; one way to do this is to educate young people about diabetes. What is diabetes, what are the signs and symptoms, and how can diabetes be prevented and managed?

In this essay, contestants should explain why diabetes awareness is important in schools K-12 grades. The essay may include diabetes information provided by teachers, nurses, doctors, dieticians, classmates, anyone they know with diabetes, and from printed or digital materials.

The essay may reflect if any information obtained from schools or others was helpful or not- including **why or why not?** As contestants look back on their K-12 years of education, they should also include information about diabetes they would have liked to have received but did not.

### 2. **Application Deadlines for District 2-E2 Competition**

- a. Contestants must complete the Application and have their essays and the application delivered to the Diabetes Essay Chair for District 2-E2.
  - i. Emailed applications and essays must be sent by 11:59 pm on November 30, 2020.
  - ii. Mailed applications and essays must be post marked no later than Saturday, November 28, 2020; if there is no post mark or other tracking information, then they must be received by November 30, 2020.

### 3. **Contest Rules**

- a. The title of the contestant's essay is not required to be the same as the subject for the essay. Contestants should be creative in the selection of an essay title and set the tone for their presentation with the title they choose.
- b. The essay should analyze the problem given in the subject and present a solution or solutions to the problem.
- c. The topic is broad and allows the contestants considerable leeway in the selection of their solution or solutions.
- d. Creative, innovative, practical, and reasonable ideas are welcome.
- e. Each Contestant is expected to personally research, write, and read or recite their

- essay.
- f. Research for this topic can be conducted by interviewing physicians, nurses, medical professionals, community organizations, people they know with diabetes, etc., and by using the internet and library. The essay shall be a written article to be read or recited by the contestant which will be judged by a panel of judges in competition with other contestants.
  - g. The presentation portion of the District 2-E2 contest, where the contestants will be expected to read or recite their essay, will be held in January 23, 2021 at the third District 2-E2 Leadership Meeting. All contestants will be introduced during the luncheon that day, and the first-place winner will be asked to present their essay again at lunch. Additionally, the first-place winner should be prepared to represent the District at the Texas MD-2 competition in May 2021. In the event that the first-place winner is unable to compete in the Texas competition, we will seek to substitute the second-place winner in that contest.
  - h. The essay shall not exceed 1,500 words.
    - i. All words in the essay are counted including articles, conjunctives and pronouns. Examples: "I," "a," "the," "and" and "an."
    - ii. **Provide word count on last page of essay.**
    - iii. The essay must include a bibliography of alphabetized sources used in its composition. **Note: the bibliography is not included in the 1,500-word count.**
    - iv. Essay should be typed in double space format.
  - i. The following criteria will be used for judging the essays and presentations:
    - i. Sixty percent (60%) of the score shall be based on the authenticity, current information and an application of the assigned essay topic.
    - ii. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the score shall be based on the understandability of the essay through personal presentation techniques, in the use of posture, eye contact and voice by its modulation, volume, speed and clarity.
    - iii. Fifteen percent (15%) of the score shall be based on grammar, spelling, sentence structure, pronunciation, enunciation, correct word usage, and relationship to the assigned essay topic.
  - j. Video equipment may not be used in the contest.
  - k. Two or more of the judges should be knowledgeable about the medical aspect of diabetes. One of the judges should be an educator knowledgeable about the English language, its grammar, sentence structure, pronunciation and correct usage.
  - l. The contest shall be conducted in the English language.
  - m. The contest area will have good acoustics, be free from outside noises and disturbances, and have controlled access.
  - n. Order of appearance before the judging panel will be determined by the Chair.
  - o. Contestants shall remain outside the contest area until invited to enter by the Chair.
  - p. Audience during contest will be at the discretion of the Chair.
  - q. When the audience is allowed in the contest room, the audience will be informed before the first contestant not to applaud at the end of the speech, and will be

- reminded before each contestant delivers his/her speech of the same requirement.
- r. The audience will be asked to turn off any cell phones and/or electronic devices during the presentation portion of the contest.
    - Failure to comply with this rule could result in removal of the audience member from the contest room.
  - s. **At the beginning of their presentation to the judges, the contestants will not give any self-introduction but shall state the title of their essay and then deliver the essay.**
  - t. No one will be allowed either to enter or leave the contest area during the presentation of a contestant's essay.
  - u. After each essay speech the audience may be asked to leave the contest area to allow judges time to score the contestant based on contest criteria.
4. Awards for District 2-E2 Contest Winners
- a. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will win a \$2,000 scholarship.
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner will win a \$1,500 scholarship.
  - c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner will win a \$1,000 scholarship
5. To collect the scholarship award, the winning contestants must complete the following process:
- a. Contest winners must complete the Scholarship Request Form, which will be provided to you after the Contest, along with proof of registration information from a university, college, junior college or vocational school.
  - b. The information should be sent to the District 2-E2 LOEB along with any supplemental information required to be submitted by the institution (i.e. scholarship forms, etc.). Send request for payment to:  
**Lions Organ and Eye Bank of District 2-E2**  
P.O. Box 830, Fort Worth, Texas 76101
6. Payment will be made directly to the designated school.
7. **The scholarship awards must be collected no later than two years following the recipient's graduation from High School.**
8. 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 2-E2 Contest Chair 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 at the Texas MD-2 Contest shall have placed first in the District contest during the current Lions' year. 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.
- 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 which will be held in May 2021.**

**B. Responsibilities of contestants if participating in the Texas MD-2 State Contest**

1. Each contestant shall be required to submit the following to their sponsoring Lions Club and/or District who will then be responsible for submitting it to the State Contest Coordinator:
  - a. State Contest Application (mandatory to be completed online and copied; no handwritten applications will be accepted).
  - b. 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.
  - c. Signed Copy of the Code of Conduct and Chaperone Guidelines.
  - d. Medical Power of Attorney designating his/her Chaperone as the Primary Responsible Party and the State Contest Chair as the Secondary Responsible Party.
  - e. Four (4) typed copies of the essay, including bibliography. Essay changes are not permitted once received by the State Contest Coordinator.
  
2. Attend the Lions MD-2 Texas State Convention in Waco, Texas on May 21-22, 2021.
  - a. 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 from this requirement may be granted prior to the meeting by the State Contest Coordinator or the State Contest Chair.
    - ii. Contestants will have the opportunity to 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
  - b. 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.
  - c. **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 (Opportunities for Youth) 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.

**C. Responsibilities of the Sponsoring District for State Essay Contestant Entry**

1. An entry fee of \$250 to be attached to each participant's application. Check to be payable to **Texas State Convention Fund**.
2. The sponsoring District must make sure all documents listed above, items B.1.a.-e., are completed, have all required signatures, and are sent to the State Diabetes Essay Coordinator. **The deadline to postmark all applications will be Monday, April 19, 2021 for all Districts.**
3. The Sponsorship District Responsibility List must be completed and attached to the Contestant's application/contest package. It is available on the MD-2 website . This is mandatory.
4. 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 MD-2 State Convention for the 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.

Contact information:

Texas Lions District 2-E2 Bill Cowan, III, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Lions Organ and Eye Bank of District 2-E2 P.O. Box 830, Fort Worth, TX 76101 Email: <a href="mailto:BillCowaniii@gmail.com">BillCowaniii@gmail.com</a>	Texas MD-2 State Diabetes Essay Coordinator PDG Cesar Montelongo P.O. Box 562 Donna, TX 78537 (956) 460-7801 (cell) Email: <a href="mailto:MontelongCesar@sbcglobal.net">MontelongCesar@sbcglobal.net</a>
--	---