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High School Counselors:  
Denver City High School and Plains High School

December 8, 2022

Dear Counselors,

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is sponsoring the annual essay contest for senior students at Denver City and Plains high schools. All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. First place contest winners from each school will receive a **\$2,000 scholarship** and second place winners will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship** to the college or university of their choice. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the university/college upon confirmation of enrollment in classes (not to the individual student). Scholarships will be awarded contingent upon receipt of qualified submissions based on the criteria outlined below as determined by the scholarship committee.

**Essay Topic for 2023: "Accelerating Change through Partnerships and Cooperation"**

"Groundwater is a vital resource that provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide, about 40% of water for irrigated agriculture (more in our region), and about 1/3 of the water required for industry. It sustains ecosystems, maintains the baseflow of rivers, and prevents subsidence and seawater intrusion. Despite these facts, invisible groundwater is "out of sight and out of mind" for most people. How can you, or other young people, create change in your community regarding protecting and preserving groundwater resources like the Ogallala Aquifer? What does "accelerating change" mean to you? What partnerships are essential to accelerate change in our region of Texas? "

**The criteria for the contest is: READ CAREFULLY!!!**

1. The essay must have a **minimum** of 500 words and **maximum** of 650 words.
2. The essay must be typed and double-spaced in MLA format.
3. The essay must have a **cover sheet** containing the following: student's name, essay title, name of local high school, and date.
4. References **must** accompany paper in the form of a works cited page.  
(The library and Internet offer many resources.)

5. Essays must be submitted electronically via email to [savegroundwater@gmail.com](mailto:savegroundwater@gmail.com) or [mcooper@spuwcd.org](mailto:mcooper@spuwcd.org). A hard copy of entry may also be submitted via mail or hand delivered to the district office.

6. Electronic submissions are **due no later than Friday, March 31, 2023 (11:59pm).**

Hardcopy submissions may be delivered by hand or mailed directly to the SLUWCD at 1012 Ave F., PO Box 130, Plains, TX, 79355. All electronic submissions must be received by SOCOP at the email address in criteria #5 by 11:59pm Friday, March 31, 2023.

Recipients will be notified individually if awarded a scholarship. Presentations will be made during local high school awards assemblies and/or in accordance with school guidelines.

For further information, please contact the district office at (806)456-2155 or email the education coordinator at [savegroundwater@gmail.com](mailto:savegroundwater@gmail.com). Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

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