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High School Counselors:
Denver City High School, Plains High School

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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 **\$1000 scholarship** to the college or university of their choice. If limited applications are received from one school, additional places or funds may be awarded to other campuses. 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.

2025 Essay Prompt:

“According to recent data, Texas’s population is expected to grow from 30 million to 52 million by 2070, which will increase water demand. At the same time, the state’s water supply is projected to decline due to drought conditions and aging water infrastructure. In what ways does your local groundwater district contribute toward protecting and preserving our most valuable resource – water? How can water conservation at the local and state level help alleviate increasing water supply needs? What can individuals, such as yourself, do to help alleviate the pressure of increasing water demand?”

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, mailing address, phone number, essay title, name of local high school, and date.*
4. References **must** accompany paper in the form of a **works cited page**.
5. Essays **MUST BE** submitted electronically via email to savegroundwater@gmail.com. A reply receipt will be sent to the applicant noting their submission was received.
6. Electronic submissions are **due no later than Friday, April 11, 2025 (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, April 11, 2025 (11:59pm)**.

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. Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Michelle H. Cooper
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