



Opportunities for Youth

"DIABETIC AWARENESS ESSAY"

Contest Rules

"Diabetes – The Epidemic is Here."

1. Essay Subject

- a. *"Diabetes – The Epidemic is Here."* The rate of increase for diabetes has literally reached epidemic proportions, especially in some minority population segments. With the current debate on the nation's health care system, explore the possible ramifications, both monetary and non-monetary, of this growing epidemic on the health care system. Also, explore the available options to deal with the epidemic; medically, legislatively, educationally, etc.

2. 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 essays 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 contestant considerable leeway in the selection of their solution or solutions.
- d. Creative, innovative, practical, and reasonable ideas are welcomed.
- e. Each Contestant shall personally research, write and read his/her contest essay.
- f. Research for this topic can be conducted by interviewing school officials, teachers, judges, law enforcement personnel, probation personnel, counselors, juvenile court officials, legislators, medical personnel and by using the internet and library.
- g. The essay shall be a written article, to be read by the Contestant, to be judged by a panel of judges in competition with other Contestants.
- h. The essay shall not exceed 1500 words.
 - i. All words in the essay are counted including articles, conjunctives and pronouns. Example: "I," "a," "the," "and," and "an."
 - ii. The essay must include a bibliography of sources used in its composition. Note: the bibliography is not included in the 1500 word count.
- i. The following criteria shall be used for judging the essays:
 - i. Sixty percent (60%) of the score shall be based on the authenticity, current information and an application of the assigned essay topic.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.

- j. Notes, cue cards and video equipment may not be used at Lions District 2-S2 contests.
- k. Two or more of the judges should be knowledgeable about the medical aspects of diabetes.
- l. One of more judges should be an educator knowledgeable about the English language, its grammar, sentence structure, pronunciation and correct usage.
- m. All Lions District 2-S2 contests shall be conducted in the English language and Contestants, during contest presentations, shall speak English.
- n. The contest area must have good acoustics, be free from outside noises and disturbances, and have controlled access.
- o. Immediately prior to the commencement of the contest, Contestants will draw for the order of appearance before the judging panel.
- p. Contestants shall remain outside the contest area until invited to enter by the Contest Official.
- q. The audience will be informed before the first contestant to not applaud at the end of the speech and 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 contest time.
 - i. Failure to comply with this rule could result in disqualification of a Contestant at the discretion of the Contest Official.
- s. Contestants will not give any self-introduction but shall state the title of their essay and then deliver the essay.
- t. Following the Contestant's essay he/she will take a seat in the area assigned for the Contestants and remain in the contest area until the final speech is presented, judges have completed scoring the contest and introductions have been completed.
 - i. The Contest Official may allow an exemption of this requirement for medical reasons/emergencies, restroom breaks or for other reasons deemed acceptable by the Contest Official.
 - ii. Request may be made between Contestant presentations only.
- u. No one will be allowed to either enter the contest during an essay, or leave once they have entered until all of the Contestants have presented their essays and the Judges have finished scoring the Contestant.
- v. When all essays have been presented, Contestants, in the order of their presentations, will stand and state their names, hometowns, ages, schools, grade levels, and Lions Club sponsors.
- w. At the end of this process, the audience may then collectively applaud all Contestants.
- x. Persons involved in conducting of the contest; parents, chaperones, and guests of the Contestants, may then be introduced at the discretion of the Contest Official, as time allows.

3. Awards

- a. The 1st place winner will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship.
- b. The 2nd place winner will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.
- c. Any contest winner who wishes to participate in the State Contest, travel to and lodging in El Paso will be the responsibility of the contestant or the sponsoring club.
- d. To collect the scholarship award, the Contestant must complete the following process:
 - i. Contestant must send a request for payment from the registrar of a university, college, junior college or vocational school.
 - ii. Send request for payment to:

Lions District 2-S2 Treasurer
6210 Wynwood Lane
Houston TX, 77008-3242
H: 713-861-8733

- 4. If a request for payment from an institute of higher education is received from the school, the scholarship money will be made payable directly to the school.
- 5. The scholarship awards must be collected no later than two years following the recipient's graduation from High School.

6. Rules of Eligibility for Contestants

- a. A Club 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 Lions District 2-S2 Contest Chairperson prior to the entry deadline.
- b. A false statement on the entry application, or associated documents, causes disqualification of the Contestant, with the entry fee being forfeited.
- c. There shall be no refund of any entry fee,
- d. Each contestant must be or have been a regularly enrolled student in a public high school or comparable educational program, located in Texas,
- e. Each contestant must be a junior, senior or immediate graduate at the time of the Lions District 2-S2 contest.
- f. Contestants shall not have been married, had a marriage annulled, cohabited with a person of the opposite sex who is unrelated to the Contestant or who has participated in the conception of a child before participation in the Lions District 2-S2 contest.

7. Responsibilities of Contestants

- a. Each Contestant shall be required to submit the following to the Contest Coordinator, contact information in paragraph 6.
 - i. ***An entry fee of \$100.00*** (which is paid by the Club who is sponsoring the contestant)
 - ii. ***Lions District 2-S2 Contest Application,***
 - iii. ***Two wallet-sized color Photographs*** (head and shoulders close-up),
 - iv. ***Personal Biographical Information.***
 - v. ***Signed Copy of Code of Conduct.***
 - vi. ***Medical Power of Attorney*** designating his/her Chaperone as the Primary Responsible Party and the District Contest Chair as the Secondary Responsible Party.
 1. ***Three (3) Printed Copies of the Essay.***
- b. The sponsoring Clubs must make sure all documents, outlined above, are completed, have all the required signatures and are sent to the Lions District 2-S2 Contest Coordinator, post-marked no later than
the **January 22, 2010 deadline.**

Contest Coordinator Contact

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