



Texas Lions MD-2
Opportunities for Youth Contests
"OUTSTANDING YOUTH CONTEST"

2025-2026 **ONLINE** Contest Rules



“Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Its Impact on Education”

1. Contest Rules

Contestants shall be evaluated on a 750 to 1000 - word essay, their biographical information statement, community service, experience/participation leadership information, three letters of recommendation, high school GPA, and an interview

Contestants should present thoughtful, well-researched perspectives, demonstrating both knowledge and integrity in their submissions. In addition to the essay, participants must provide supporting documentation that highlights personal achievements, leadership experiences, and a commitment to community service. The judging process emphasizes not only academic merit but also qualities of character and citizenship.

a. The following criteria. Shall be used for judging the contestant:

i. Fifteen percent (15%) – 750-1000 Word essay on Artificial Intelligence “A.I.” and its impact on Education.

AI is no longer confined to the realm of science. Its increasing integration in various sectors including education. In this essay contestants are asked to discuss / focus on AI in Education. Examine the potential of AI in personalized learning, make sure to address the educational inequalities . The essay must be well organized, have good vocabulary and conform to required length.

- ii. Five percent (5%) — Grade point average from school transcript.
- iii. Fifteen percent (15%) — Three letters of recommendation.
- iv. Thirty-five percent (35%) — biographical information statement, community service, leadership experience/participation information.
- b. Thirty percent (30%) — Personal interview. The personal interview may include matters on current local, state, national or worldwide events.
- c. Judges shall be persons who are knowledgeable about community service and high school level leadership.
- d. All MD-2 contests shall be conducted in the English language.

- e. Order of appearance advance at the direction of the State OFY Chair.
- f. Contestants will not give any self-introduction but shall state their name and the interview shall proceed.

2. Awards

- a. The 1st place winner will win a \$3,000.00 scholarship.
- b. The 2nd place winner will win a \$2,000.00 scholarship.
- c. The 3rd place winner will win a \$1,000.00 scholarship.
- d. To collect the scholarship award, the Contestant must complete the following process:
 - i. Contestant winner or runners-up must complete the Scholarship Request Form along with proof of registration information from a university, college, junior college or vocational school.
 - ii. The information should be sent to the state office along with any supplemental information needed by the institution (i.e. scholarship forms, etc). Send request for payment to:

Texas Lions MD-2 State Office
P.O. Box 294509
Kerrville, TX 78029-4509
Phone: 830-257-6557
lionsstateoffice@texaslions.org

- 3. Payment will be made directly to the scholarship/financial aid office of the designated school.
- 4. The scholarship awards must be collected no later than two years following the recipient's graduation from High School.

5. 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 MD-2 Contest Chairperson prior to the entry deadline.
- b. A false statement on the entry application, associated document or violation of contest rules, causes disqualification of the Contestant, with the entry fee being forfeited.
- c. There shall be no refund of any entry fee.

Each contestant 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, and approved by the MD-2 Contest Chairman, the District may may enter their alternate in the contest using the original entrant's sponsorship.

- i. If a District has only one contestant, District may sponsor the contestant in the MD-2 Contest.
- 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 or senior at the time of the MD-2 contest.

6. Responsibilities of Contestant

- a. Each Contestant shall be required to submit the following to his or her sponsoring Lions Club and/or District.
 - i. **Four (4) typed copies** of State Contest Application (mandatory to be completed online and copied; no handwritten applications will be accepted).
 - ii. **Two (2) high quality wallet/passport size 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.
 - iii. Signed Copy of the Code of Conduct and Chaperone Guidelines for the Winning Contestant.
 - iv. Medical Power of Attorney designating his/her Chaperone as the Primary Responsible Party and the State Contest Chair as the Secondary Responsible Party for **the Winning Contestant**.
 - v. **Four (4) typed double spaced copies** of your 750 to 1000 word essay with word count on last page of essay. Essay changes are not permitted once received by State Contest Coordinator.
 - vi. **Four (4) typed copies** of biographical information statement, community service, leadership experience/participation experience.
 - vii. **Four (4) copies of the three (3)** letters of recommendation.
 - viii. **One (1)** certified high school transcript, plus three (3) other copies.
- b. The winning contestant must agree to be available at the State Opportunities for Youth Luncheon and 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. **Orientation** will be held **Saturday, May 9, 2026, and the Contest will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026**, at times set forth by State Contest Chair.
- d. **Online Contest.** Contestants must be able to participate in Orientation and the contest using online live audio and video communication tools. **Zoom video** conferencing will be used for the contest.
- e. Prior to Orientation and the Contest, Contestants, parents and sponsoring Lions Club contacts will be provided with instructions for the online contest.
- f . Basic **guidelines** for the contest are as follows:
 - i. Contestants must have a computer or access to a computer with a wi-fi connection, video capability (webcam) and microphone to ensure that contestants' gestures and facial expressions will be captured by their camera and their voice will be clearly captured by the microphone while delivering their essay.
 - ii. Contestants will be sent an email invitation by the State Contest Chair to participate in the contest and be ready at their designated time.
 - iii. Contestants must wear business attire for the online contest.
 - iv. Contestants' speaking area must be free of distractions, noise and if necessary, the State Contest Chair will advise contestants on additional lighting needs.
 - v. Contestants' speaking area should allow for maximum view of contestants without sacrificing audio quality while presenting his or her essay.
 - vi. Once a contestant presents his or her essay or speech, he or she may be placed in a waiting room or be asked to turn off the camera and mute the microphone until the conclusion of the contest.
 - vii. If technology fails during the contest and the State Contest Chair determines that the contest can no longer continue, the State Contest Chair may pause the contest until the technology issue is resolved. A contestant may resume his or her speech or essay at the point at which the technology failed.

d.

- i. After the conclusion of the contest and the results have been determined, all contestants will be invited to rejoin the online contest room, at which time, the 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place Winners will be announced by the State Contest Coordinator.
- ii. First Place Winner is required to present his or her essay **at the MD -2 Texas Lions Convention Youth Luncheon on Saturday, May 30, 2026, in Odessa, Texas.** First Place Winners who do not attend the State Convention to present their essays will forfeit their scholarship award unless there is a medical or family emergency. High school graduation or school trips do not qualify as an emergency.
- iii. All contestants will be recognized and receive a certificate of participation. In addition to scholarship awards, winning contestants will receive an award and a winner's certificate.

7. Responsibilities of the Sponsoring District

- a. An entry fee of \$250 to be attached to each participant's application. Check to be made payable to **Texas State Convention Fund.**
- b. The sponsoring district must make sure all documents listed above (Items 6(a)(i-viii)) are completed, have all required signatures and are sent to the Outstanding Youth State Coordinator. **The deadline to postmark all applications will be Monday, April 20, 2026, for all Districts.**
- c. Complete Sponsorship District Responsibility List and attach to contestant's application/contest package. **This is mandatory.**

8. Chaperone/Sponsoring Club and or District Responsibilities

- a. Winning contestant 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 one night's lodging before the contest as well as the meal during the Youth Luncheon at the MD-2 State Convention for the winning contestant.
- c. The sponsoring District shall be responsible for all expenses not paid by the Texas Lions MD-2 Convention for their contestant.
- d. Comply with requirements as set forth in the Texas Lions MD-2 Opportunities for Youth contest Chaperone Guidelines.

Contest Coordinator Contact Information

Lion Gloria Mathur
8705 Baltusrol Dr.
Flower Mound, Texas 75022
972-896-9953
gmathur120@gmail.com

Include check with this packet.