



Michelle H. Cooper - SOCOP

Education & Outreach Coordinator

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High School Counselors:
Wellman-Union, Brownfield High School, Meadow High School

January 10, 2022

Dear Counselors,

The South Plains Underground Water Conservation District is sponsoring the annual essay contest for senior students at Brownfield, Meadow, and Wellman-Union high schools. All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. First place contest winners from each school will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship** and second place winners will receive a **\$500 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 2022: "Making the Invisible Visible"

"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. Human activities and climate variability are rapidly increasing the pressure on groundwater resources. What do you think can be done locally (and statewide) to help inform the community about this precious resource and what steps can be taken to help reduce the pressure being placed on aquifers such as the Ogallala?"

The criteria for the contest is:

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 or 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, April 1, 2022 (11:59pm)**.

Hardcopy submissions may be delivered by hand or mailed directly to the SPUWCD at 802 Tahoka Rd., PO Box 986, Brownfield, TX, 79316. All electronic submissions must be received by SOCOP at the email address in criteria #5 by 11:59pm Friday, April 1, 2022.

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)637-7467 or email the education coordinator at savegroundwater@gmail.com. Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Michelle H. Cooper
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