

## **Austin Utilities Annual Scholarship Guidelines**

An annual scholarship in the amount of \$500 for a local graduating high school senior with the intent to increase the awareness of municipal utility organizations.

### ***Availability:***

- Any local high school senior is eligible to submit an essay who has a parent or legal guardian who is an active customer of Austin Utilities. Relatives of utility personnel are not eligible to receive the award.
- Applicants must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

### ***Notification:***

- Austin Utilities, upon notification from Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) in January, will send a letter to local high school counselors stating the availability of the scholarship.
- It is the responsibility of the counselor(s) to share the information at their respective schools and it is the responsibility of the students to pursue the scholarship opportunity.

### ***Essay requirements:***

- Applicants must submit an essay reflecting on one or more of the following prompts:
  - What is the benefit of a city maintaining local control of its utilities?
  - How does your hometown provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable utility service?
  - How does your municipal utility make life easier for its customers?
- The essay length should be 500 to 750 words, typed, and double-spaced including a cover page with the student's name and address.
- One aspect of the judging will be the relevance of the theme to Austin Utilities and the communities it serves.

### ***Resource Materials:***

- Students can find reference materials at the Austin Utilities website at [www.austinutilities.com](http://www.austinutilities.com). You may also want to visit [www.mmua.org](http://www.mmua.org); and [www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org).

### ***Judging:***

- The judges are chosen by Austin Utilities General Manager to independently review and judge the essays as to the relevance of the essay to the theme and the quality of the content.

### ***Award:***

- The student with the winning essay will receive a \$500 scholarship. Upon confirmation of college enrollment, payment will be sent directly to the winning student in their name.
- The winning essay will automatically be sent for consideration of the Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award provided by MMUA. That scholarship fund is split into \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500 scholarships and is awarded to essay contest winners who plan on attending a post-secondary education institution.

***Deadline:*** Applicants must submit the scholarship application and a completed essay to Austin Utilities, 1908 14<sup>th</sup> St NE, Austin MN 55912 or by email in a .pdf attachment to [sarahd@austinutilities.com](mailto:sarahd@austinutilities.com) by April 7th, 2023.