

Austin Utilities Annual Scholarship Guidelines

An annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for a local graduating high school senior with the intent to increase the awareness of municipal utility organizations. Funded by AU's contracted power provider, the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA).

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. Immediate family of AU personnel are not eligible to receive the award.
- Applicants must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

Notification:

- Austin Utilities will notify 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 Austin maintaining local control of its utilities?
 - How does Austin Utilities provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable utility service?
 - How does Austin Utilities 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.

Resource Materials:

- Students can find reference materials at the Austin Utilities website at www.austinutilities.com. You may also want to visit www.mmua.org; and 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 and the quality of the content.

Award:

- The student with the winning essay will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Upon confirmation of college enrollment, payment will be sent from SMMPA.

Deadline: Applicants must submit the scholarship application and a completed essay to Austin Utilities, 1908 14th St NE, Austin MN 55912 or by email in a .pdf attachment to sarahd@austinutilities.com by April 10th, 2026.