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December 2023

TO: Minnesota's Public and Private High Schools
FROM: Jeff Krueger, Executive Director
RE: Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2024 Scholarship Program, which awards up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. All students currently enrolled in the 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial high school, or a home-study program, are eligible for this program. Participants will submit a written essay on the topic of the role of townships in local government.

Applications for the scholarships must be submitted by **June 1, 2024**. Winners will be chosen and notified in **September** and invited to attend the Awards section of our Annual Conference in St. Cloud, Minnesota in early December 2024.

MAT is a nonprofit corporation representing Minnesota townships and its 9,000 plus officers. Townships embody the values of "grassroots government." MAT's specific purposes are educational and charitable: educating the public about the heritage and future of township government and its role in state government, and providing townships and their officers with a single, unified voice, as well as access to educational programs and research-based materials to help foster the delivery of efficient, effective, and economical township government.

Please contact our office if you would like more information about MAT. Our office can also arrange for an elected township official or one of our Board of Directors to come to your school and make a presentation on township government.

Please take a few minutes to read the enclosed application requirements and become familiar with our scholarship program. We have enclosed two applications and a poster, however if you need additional copies; please photocopy as many as you need; visit our website, www.mntownships.org. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Stalker at lstalker@mntownships.org or at 1-800-228-0296 ext. 144.

Please Note: This will be the only mailing your school will receive regarding this scholarship program. Please notify your career counselors and 11th grade instructors and students of this program.

A news release is sent to MN daily and weekly papers the first week of December and we send a release to the known home-school newsletters.



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is awarding \$2,000 scholarships to up to five juniors currently attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial high school, or a home study program, that plan to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school.

Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with a written essay using critical thinking discussing this year's topic on Promoting Township Government. The question is:

Throughout its history the United States has adopted policies which took advantage of major technological advances that led to prosperity as a nation. In the 19th century it was the development of canals and a national railroad system. In the 20th century it was rural electrification and the national highway system. Today, high speed broadband Internet access is as vital as phones, electricity, and roads. Those without this access, particularly people in rural areas, are left stranded on the wrong side of the digital divide. **Describe ways in which broadband Internet access improves the lives of rural residents. What challenges exist in providing broadband Internet in rural areas? And what policies should governments at all levels, (federal, state, and local) adopt to ensure that regardless of geographic location all Americans have equal access to broad band Internet?**

Essays must be between 450 and 500 words, typed and double spaced.

- Applicants should not name themselves, their school, their town or city, or their local officials in or on the essay.
- Each essay will be judged by an independent panel based upon originality, knowledge of subject matter, and supporting statements, as well as correct spelling and punctuation.
- Applicants must be a high school junior to apply.

Along with the completed application and written essay, students must submit:

- A current high school transcript
- A letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or counselor
- All items must be submitted in one envelope postmarked by June 1, 2024, and mailed to:
Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376,
Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after June 1st, will not be accepted.

Research Tips:

- Visit our website, www.mntownships.org
- Ask a township officer
- If you do research on the web or in your local library – be sure to look for 'Minnesota (or MN) townships' so you are finding relevant information.

Winners will be notified in writing in September 2024 and will be invited to attend the MAT annual conference in December 2024 in St. Cloud, MN. Scholarship awards will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon receipt of verification of enrollment at a college, university, or technical school.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Home telephone (____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County _____

Do you live in a Township? _____ If yes, Township Name _____

High School Presently Attending _____

Parent's names _____

Hobbies or activities of interest _____

Future goals _____

Any other comments you care to make about yourself? _____



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