



# ESSAY CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

**This contest is open to all currently enrolled TEXAS High School students  
who are citizens of the United States and residents of Texas.**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY  
(INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED)**

1. The body of your essay **MUST** be typewritten or printed with a word processor, double spaced, on standard 8.5x11 inch paper.
2. The length of your essay is to be a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 1,500 words.
3. Include a letter of certification from your high school principal or counselor stating that you are currently enrolled as a full time student in a Texas high school.
4. Please use a permanent address, phone number, and email address. Communication regarding your application will be through email; once your application has been submitted, this information cannot be changed.
5. Assemble your entry in the following order:
  - 1-Official Essay Contest Entry form (page 3)
  - 2-Letter of Certification from your high school principal/counselor
  - 3-Typewritten or word-processed EssayStaple the packet neatly on the top left corner. Please do not use any type of folder or binder.
6. **Completed applications must be received by your local Elks Lodge Scholarship Chair no later than January 3, 2025.** To find an Elks Lodge near you, use the Lodge Locator at [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org).
7. Students whose essays are submitted for State-level judging will be notified of the contest results in April 2025.
8. Scholarships will be issued in the form of a Certificate of Award by the Texas Elks State Association, conditioned upon the enrollment of the individual as a full-time student in an accredited junior college, college, university, or trade school in the United States within the calendar year the scholarship is awarded. This Award will be paid as scholarship funds directly to the school in which the student is enrolled. "Verification of Student Enrollment" and "Special Instructions to the University or College" forms will be provided to the student for use in requesting funds. The award may be used for tuition, books, student fees, laboratory fees (and room & board, if housed on campus). The scholarship will not cover expenses or payments for an academic year begun prior to July 1 of the year in which it is awarded.
9. The Award may be used for tuition, books, student fees, laboratory fees (and room & board, if housed on campus). The scholarship will not cover expenses or payments for an academic year begun prior to July 1 of the year in which the student graduates from high school.
10. All entries become property of the Texas Elks State Association and will not be returned. Applications will be destroyed after judging.
11. Scholarship awards will be presented at the annual convention of the Texas Elks State Association as follows:

First Place.....	\$1,500
Second Place.....	\$1,300
Third Place.....	\$1,200

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY YOUR LOCAL ELKS LODGE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR  
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 3, 2025.**

**ESSAY TOPIC:**  
***What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?***

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE AUTOFORM APPLICATION**

1. Download and save the application to your computer.
2. Open the document with Adobe Acrobat Reader. (Note—other PDF programs may open the file but not allow you to enter or save information. If using a program other than Acrobat, please test that your program will allow you to complete, save, and print your application.) Acrobat Reader DC may be downloaded free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
3. Enter the information requested in each highlighted area.
4. The form does NOT have to be completed all at once. You may save and close the form, then re-open it later and complete it.
5. When all information has been entered, print the form and sign/date where signatures are required. APPLICATIONS WITH MISSING OR INCOMPLETE SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
6. Attach all required documentation to the application.
7. Submit your completed application to your local Elks Lodge by the application deadline.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE AUTOFORM APPLICATION MANUALLY**

1. Download and save the application to your computer.
2. Open and print the document with a program that will open PDF documents.
3. Complete each area of the application. Be sure to sign/date where signatures are required. APPLICATIONS WITH MISSING OR INCOMPLETE SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
4. Some fields may be set to calculate totals electronically; these fields will have “0.00” printed in them. Please mark through the digits and enter your totals.
5. Attach all required documentation to the application.
6. Submit your completed application to your local Elks Lodge by the application deadline.



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Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Last*

*First*

*MI*

Student's Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Street*

*City*

*Zip*

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of School \_\_\_\_\_

Essay Word Count \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATIONS AND CONSENTS

**STUDENT CERTIFICATION:** I certify to the accuracy of the foregoing facts. I give my permission for the Texas Elks State Association and/or its local lodges to use my name and to quote from my application in news and other publicity media. I understand that this application becomes the property of the Texas Elks State Association and will not be returned.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Signature Required—Digital or electronic signature not accepted

**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT:** I/We hereby certify that the information pertaining to my/our son/daughter is true and correct and I/we hereby waive any claim against the Texas Elks State Association and its subordinate lodges.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Signature Required—Digital or electronic signature not accepted

### Lodge Certification

**THIS APPLICATION MUST HAVE SPONSORING LODGE ENDORSEMENT TO BE ACCEPTED FOR TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION JUDGING. APPLICATION MUST BE MADE ON THIS OFFICIAL TESA FORM. PHOTOCOPIES OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS OR FACSIMILES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**APPLICATIONS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION AND WILL BE DESTROYED AFTER JUDGING.**

### LODGE ENDORSEMENT

This application, with attached exhibits, has been reviewed, the statements verified to the best of my ability, and it is in conformity with rules and regulations set forth by the Texas Elks State Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: Lodge ER, Secretary, or Scholarship Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Title: Lodge ER, Secretary, or Scholarship Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge Name & Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Endorser's phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**LODGE PERSONNEL: NO LATER THAN JANUARY 25, 2025, FORWARD THE WINNING APPLICATION(S) TO THE TESA ESSAY CONTEST STATE CHAIR.**