



LIONS DISTRICT 2-X1



2025- 2026 LOFY Outstanding Youth Award Contest Rules

1. Contest Topic: “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Its Impact on Education.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer confined to the realm of science. Its increasing integration in various sectors including education. In this essay contestants are asked to discuss / focus on AI in Education. Examine the potential of AI in personalized learning, make sure to address the educational inequalities The essay must be well organized, have good vocabulary and conform to required length.

Contestants should present thoughtful, well-researched perspectives, demonstrating both knowledge and integrity in their submissions. In addition to the essay, participants must provide supporting documentation that highlights personal achievements, leadership experiences, and a commitment to community service. The judging process emphasizes not only academic merit but also qualities of character and citizenship.

2. Contest Rules

- a. Contestant shall be evaluated based on a 750 to 1,000 words essay, biographical information statement, community service, leadership experience and participation, three Letter of Recommendation, high school grade point average, and a personal interview.
- b. The following criteria shall be used for judging the contestant:
 - i. 5% — Grade point average from school transcript.
 - ii. 15% — Three letter of recommendation.
 - iii. 15% — On the 750 to 1,000 words essay on the topic of the contest given.
 - iv. 35% — Biographical information statement, community service, and leadership experience and participation information.
 - v. 30% — Personal interview, opinion may include matters on current local, state, national, or worldwide events.
- c. Judges shall be persons who are knowledgeable about community service, and high school level leadership. Judge should not be related to the contestant nor belongs to the sponsoring Club.
- d. All contests shall be conducted in English language.
- e. Order of appearance before the judging panel will be determined in advance at the direction of the District LOFY Chair.
- f. Contestant will not give any self-introduction, but shall state their name prior to be interviewed.

3. Awards

1. Certificates and scholarship awards will be given to 1st place and 2nd Place winners.
2. When there's only one contestant, no monetary award will be given, however, contestant will be eligible to advance to MD-2 State level contest.
3. To collect the scholarship award, the Contestant must complete the following process:

- i. Contestant winner must complete the **Scholarship Request Form** available on District's website <https://lionsdistrict2x1.org/forms/>) along with **proof of registration** information from a university, college, junior college, or vocational school.
 - ii. The information should be sent along with any supplemental information needed by the institution (i.e., scholarship forms, etc). Send request for payment to:

2-X1 Charity Inc. Treasurer
PDG Keith Murray
8251 Ranchview Dr. #3096
Irving, TX 75063
4. Scholarship award will be **paid directly to the designated scholarship/financial aid/bursar office** of the designated school.
 5. The scholarship award must be collected no later than two years following the recipient's graduation from High School.

4. Rules of Eligibility for Contestant

1. Contestant **must** be sponsored by a Lion Club from District 2-X1.
2. A Club may sponsor only **one contestant for each contest** by submitting contest entry application, associated documents, and the entry fee ('application packet') to District's Contest Chair.
3. Contestant **must** be junior or senior high school.
4. Contestant **must** be or have been a regularly enrolled student in a public school or comparable educational program located in Texas.
5. A false statement on the entry application or associated document, causes disqualification with the entry fee being forfeited.
6. There shall be **no refund** on any entry fee.
7. A contestant can apply for multiple contests at both District and State MD-2 level.

5. Responsibility of Contestant

- a. Each Contestant **shall required to submit to the sponsoring Lions Club** all in the application packet:
 - i. Completed **District 2-X1 Contest Application** form which can be found on District's website <https://lionsdistrict2x1.org/forms/>
 - ii. Two (2) high quality, passport/wallet size, glossy, color, photographs (such as current school picture.)
 - iii. Four (4) copies of typed, double-spaced essay with word counts on the last page of the essay for judging, publication, and promotion purposes. Essay's topic has to be the same with the topic given.
 - iv. Four (4) copies each for typed biographical information statement, community service, leadership experience and participation.
 - v. Four (4) copies of three (3) Letter of Recommendation.
 - vi. One (1) **original and certified** high school transcript, plus three (3) copies.
 - vii. Signed **Contestant's Code of Conduct*** form.

- viii. Signed **Chaperone Guidelines*** form.
 - ix. Signed **Medical Power of Attorney*** form, designating contestant's Chaperone as Primary Responsible Party.
- (*These forms are available at the MD-2 [website https://texaslions.org/outstanding-youth-award/](https://texaslions.org/outstanding-youth-award/)
- b. Fail to send ALL items above will result in **disqualification**.
 - c. All contestants must be able to participate in this contest using **online live audio and video** communication via **Zoom** on **Saturday, April 4, 2026**.
 - d. Prior to the Contest, contestants, parents, and their Club sponsors will be provided with additional instruction for the online contests to be used by the Contest Chair on **Saturday., April 4, 2026**.
 - e. **Basic guidelines** for online contest:
 - i. Contestants must have computer or access to a computer with a wi-ficonnection, video capability (webcam) and microphone to ensure that contestant's gestures and facial expression will be capture by their camera and their voice will be clearly captured by the microphone while delivering their essay or speech.
 - ii. Contestants will be sent an email invitation by Contest Chair to participate in the contest and be ready at their designated time.
 - iii. Contestants must wear business attire for the online contest.
 - iv. Contestants' speaking area:
 - (a) must be free of distraction, noise and if necessary, the Contest Chair will advice contestants on additional lighting needs.
 - (b) should allow for maximum view of contestant without sacrificing audio quality while presenting their essay or speech.
 - v. Once contestant presents their essay or speech, they will be placed in the waiting room until the conclusion of the contest.
 - vi. If technology fails during the contest and the LOFY Chair determines that the contest can no longer continue, the Contest Chair may pause the contest until the technology issue is resolved. A contestant may resume their essay or speech at the point at which the technology failed.
 - vii. After the conclusion of the contest and the results have been determined, all contestants will be admitted to rejoin the online contest room, at which time the winners will be announced by the Contest Chair.
 - viii. All contestants will be recognized and receive certificate of participation. In addition to scholarship awards, 1st and 2nd winners will receive an award and a winner certificates.
 - ix. First Place winner will read his or her essay on speech **in person** at District 2- X1 Convention on **Saturday, April 25, 2026** and will advance to MD-2 State level contest.
 - x. First Place winner who will advance to **MD-2 State Level Contest** will be contacted by the State's Contest Coordinator (**SAVE THE DATES**):
 - i. **Virtual Contest Orientation** on **Saturday, May 9 2026**
 - ii. **Virtual MD-2 State LOFY Contest** on **Saturday, May 16,2026**.
 - iii. First Place winner at State Contest level must agree to attend the MD-2's **Opportunity for Youth Luncheon** on **Saturday, May 30,2026** in

Odessa, TX .

- iv. First Place Winners who do **not attend the State Convention** to present their essays will **forfeit their scholarship** award, unless there is a medical or family emergency. High school graduation or school trips do not qualify as an emergency.

6. Responsibility of the Sponsoring Club

- a. Where do we find contestant(s)?
 - Family, friends or colleague.
 - School principals, counselors, and/or Science/English teachers.
 - Youth Groups and Youth Programs.
- b. An entry fee of **\$100 per contestant** to be attached to each participant's application packet, payable to '**2-X1 Charities Inc.**'
- c. **Sponsoring Club** must ensure all documents listed above (application packet, see **5.a.i. to 5.a.ix.**) are completed for each contestant, have all requirement signatures, and are sent to the Contest Chair listed in this Contest Rules. **Deadline postmark will be Saturday, March 7, 2026.**
- d. Complete the **mandatory "Contestant Checklist"** available at District's website <https://lionsdistrict2x1.org/forms/>, place it on top of the completed application packet.
- e. At the State level contest, chaperon/sponsoring Club **must** comply with requirements as set forth in the MD-2 Lions of Texas OFY Contest's Chaperone Guidelines as stated on MD-2 website <https://texaslions.org/outstanding-youth-award/>

7. Important Dates

- Sat., Mar 7, 2026 - Submission deadline postmark for the speech contestant.
- Sat., Mar. 15, 2026 - Contestant acceptance and additional instruction (Zoom Link).
- Sat., April 4, 2026 - Speech Judging via Zoom starting at 1 PM and
- Winner announcement.
- Sat., April 25, 2026 - 1st Place Winner speech presentation at District Convention, TBA.
- **Deadline to post mark all application for the state LOFY contest - May 5, 2025**
- Sat. May 9, 2026 - MD-2 Contest Orientation
- Sat., May 16, 2026. - MD-2 Virtual Contests
- Sat., May 30, 2026, - MD-2 Lions of Texas State Convention in Odessa, TX

8. Lions District 2-X1 Outstanding Youth Award Contest Chair:

Lion Karen Murray
(979) 255- 8858
gizmo_747@yahoo.com

Submit completed application packet (**5.a.i to 5.a.ix and 6.d.**) and contest application fee (check payable to '**2X1 Charities Inc.**') to the address above.