



IMUA 2021 Scholarship Program

Student Guidelines

Program Purposes: To promote and recognize scholastic achievement and to demonstrate the advantages of, and the issues faced by, municipally-owned and operated utilities.

Eligibility and Guidelines: Only high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential customers of an IMUA member utility may submit written essays to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

(**Note:** IMUA scholarships **are not available** to the employees, staff or immediate family members of the IMUA, IMEA and IPEA, or to the immediate family members of the Board of Directors of these organizations, nor to immediate family members of those individuals who serve on the IMUA Scholarship Judging Panel and Committee.)

1. Students must complete the enclosed application and submit, along with a photocopy of their transcripts, an essay of 500 words or less, typewritten and double-spaced, with the following information included on the cover:
 - Student's first and last name, home address, phone number and e-mail address.
2. Essay should **NOT** mention the student's hometown or hometown utility by name.
3. Sources of information regarding municipal utilities and utility-related issues can be found in the reference section of your library, periodicals, the Internet or individuals employed by your local municipal utility. Search phrases might include: *municipal utility; local ownership; municipalization; public power; public gas system; utility deregulation; Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA); public interest; and, municipal utility rates*. There are many other sources as well. The following websites and sources may also be useful obtaining information helpful in writing your essay:
 - American Public Power Association (www.publicpower.org)
 - American Public Gas Association (www.apga.org)
 - Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (www.imea.org)
 - Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (www.imea.org, then click on the "IMUA link")
 - Illinois Public Energy Agency (www.imea.org, then click on the "IPEA link")
 - Energy Information Administration (www.eia.gov)
 - Your local municipal utility superintendent
 - American Water Works Association (AWWA) (www.awwa.org)
 - Illinois Rural Water Association (IRLWA) (www.ilrwa)

4. Essays **MUST** address your choice of any one of the following four (4) issues/questions:

Question 1 - Water

Drought . . . lead contamination . . . pharmaceuticals . . . per- and polyfluorinated chemicals and substances (often referred to as PFAs) . . . pollution . . . terrorism. All of these are potential threats to the overall safety and security of our nation’s drinking water supplies. Considering this, what can be done to help ensure a safe, secure, reliable and affordable drinking water supply for future generations?

Question 2 – Electric Vehicles (EVs)

Many advocates claim that electric cars and trucks (EVs), buses, vans and other forms of “smart-tech” transportation are the wave of the future (compared to gasoline-fueled vehicles). If you were the purchasing manager in charge of building your company’s own commercial transportation fleet, what type of vehicles would you purchase, and why?

Question 3 - Coal/Electric Generation

Moving forward, many coal-fired electric generating sources continue to be phased out (ie., retired) in favor of other forms of renewable and “green energy,” such as geothermal, hydro, wind and solar. In fact, some energy experts predict that coal will account for less than 18% of our nation’s overall energy mix by **2030** and that by **2050**, it will comprise a mere 5% of the total electric generation mix. Given that, what technologies and/or actions do you foresee as critical to the success of renewable energy sources, and why?

Question 4 - Natural Gas

Natural gas is an abundant, clean-burning and efficient energy source, which offers a number of economic and environmental advantages compared to other types of fossil fuels. Do you foresee it playing a significant role in our nation’s energy future and if so, why? If no, why not?

5. The deadline for submitting written essays is **Friday, March 12, 2021**. Please send your essay, transcripts and completed application to the address listed on the bottom of the application.
6. A total of **four (4) finalists** will be chosen by the IMUA Scholarship Committee. Each finalist will receive a finalist certificate and a \$1,000 award from IMUA. **Winners will be announced sometime in April.**

GOOD LUCK!