

2017 High Desert Water Summit —Calling on Tomorrow's Innovators

Student Essay Contest

Theme: *Together, we're securing water for today and tomorrow...*

California and the entire Southwest is continuing to experience ongoing drought conditions. As the Golden State's water supplies are stretched and the population steadily grows each year, careful stewardship of water resources has never been more important.

Imagine you are leading a group of scientists, environmentalists, farmers, activists, business people, and water industry experts to develop a solution to ensure a reliable water supply. Imagine on March 8, 2017, you will present your plan to the California State Legislature. What is your plan? Who or what groups does it involve? What kind of new technologies will it rely on? How will you ensure participation? What will this solution cost and how will it be funded? What is the time frame from beginning the project through its various stages?

Contest Rules:

1. Open to students living in the Mojave Water Agency boundaries enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, or home school. (The five finalists from 2016 aren't eligible.) Maximum age: 18
2. All essays must be received by **5 p.m. on December 8, 2016** by email to Gloria Golike at ggolike@mojavewater.org. Please submit in Word or .pdf format.
3. The completed essay must meet a minimum of 550 words and not exceed 900 words. (Titles, headers, etc. are not included in the word count.)
4. In addition to the essay, you must include a short video clip of yourself that you can do via your cell phone, which includes introducing yourself, the city/town you live in, name of your school, your grade level, and what you learned while writing the essay.
5. The top three finalists must agree to work with a community mentor/coach to polish their presentations and must present (verbal) their essay to a selection panel, and if chosen as the winning entry, must agree to appear and present their essay at the March 8, 2017 High Desert Water Summit at High Desert Church on Hook Blvd. in Victorville.
6. Essays will be judged on creativity, use of current technologies, and examples of community collaboration.
7. The winner will receive a scholarship of \$3,000 and the remaining two finalists will each receive a scholarship of \$1,000.
8. The top three finalists must agree to participate in an MWA produced video.
9. All entries become the property of the Mojave Water Agency.