



2019 Innovators High Desert Water Summit

Mojave Water Avengers

How Generation Z Will Save the Future of Water in California

Student Essay Contest

Ensuring a reliable water supply for California is critical. Due to droughts, increased demand and corresponding development, the future of our water is uncertain. To make matters worse, not all areas of the State suffer from the same water-related issues. Improving water quality, access to clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities, aging infrastructure, problems capturing rainwater, and overdraft are among the many issues plaguing different areas of the Golden State. Many have attempted to rescue California from water depletion, but one-size-fits-all, umbrella policies have come up short.

As part of the greatest generation, we have tasked you to come up with a detailed plan on how you can ensure stability and longevity of the State's water supply and overcome current, well-worn ideas. Explain how your plan of action will span various water-related problems while taking into consideration the State's unforgiving climate, vast population, varied topography, and most of all, lack of cooperation.

A winning essay will not only demonstrate creativity, but will be well sourced.

Note: The three finalists will be tasked with reworking their essays as a speech.

Contest Rules:

1. Open to students living in the Mojave Water Agency boundaries enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, or home school. (Past finalists are not eligible.) Maximum age: 18.
2. All essays must be received by **5 p.m. on November 19, 2018** by email to Bryan Kawasaki at bkawasaki@mojavewater.org. Please submit in Word or pdf format. Make sure your name and school is on the top of your essay as well.

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 presentation and must present (verbal) their essay on **January 15, 2019 at 5 p.m.** to a selection panel in front of a small audience, which may include family. The finalists will also be on a panel at the summit, which will be discussed later. If chosen as the winning entry, he/she must agree to appear and present their essay at the **February 8, 2019** Innovators 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, as well as writing.
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.

Student Summit Essay Schedule

10/17/18 - Announce Essay Contest & Rules
10/22/18 – Essay Contest Start Date
11/19/18 – Contest deadline to submit essays
11/26/18 – Give essays to judges to judge top 3 essays
12/03/18 – Judges determine the top 3 essays for recognition
12/05/18 – Top 3 meet their mentor
12/28/18 – Last day to mentor
01/02/19 – Deadline of 4:30 p.m. to turn in final version of essay
01/03/19 – Give final version of top 3 essays to judges
01/15/19 – Judges judge the final 3 speakers presenting their essay
01/17/19 – Top person meets professional to be helped with PPT
01/18/19 – Start working on PPT
02/01/19 – PPT is to be completed so the student can rehearse for one week
02/08/19 – Date of Student Summit and Winning Essay Presentation