



New Mexico Rural Water Association

Agua es Vida! Essay Contest

Write a true story that celebrates rural water and how clean water makes your life better.

2020 Rules and Regulations

Participants will create and submit an original piece of writing that responds to the following contest prompt:

Complete Rules and Regulations

What do I submit for judging?

Students should submit an original work. Word limit of 1000 words.

A submission may not contain offensive, libelous, sexually explicit, disparaging or other inappropriate content and may not defame or otherwise violate the rights, copyrights, trademarks, or rights of publicity, privacy, or reputation of any third party. Submissions may not contain any material to promote the sale of a product or service.

Each entrant is solely responsible for the information, data, text, graphics, and other materials included in the Submission, whether publicly posted or privately transmitted. A Submission must be original and the entrant must (1) hold all necessary rights to all the materials and information in the Submission or (2) have permission from the holder of such rights, or (3) the materials and information in the Submission must be in the public domain. Winners will have to ensure that they have all the rights necessary to permit them to transfer ownership of the essay, including transfer of any permissions and rights obtained from third parties, to the NMRWA.

Can I include images or diagrams?

Yes. Each contestant may include one, and only one, image or PDF document file to accompany his or her submission. Only .jpg or .pdf formats will be accepted.

Attached file could be a single image or diagram, a collection of images with captions that have been saved to a PDF document, or the complete formatted text of your submission with embedded tables, diagrams, or images.

While including images may improve your submission, they are not required. Judges will be scoring the text of your submission; attached material may be used to break ties.

How do I submit my entry?

Entrants must email their entry to essay@nmrwa.org, with the subject line **Agua Es Vida Essay**.

PLEASE NOTE: Include your name, address, phone number, and member water utility in the email but not in the text of the submission so the judging can be as anonymous as possible.

What is the deadline for submissions?

The Competition will close at **11:59 PM, May 31, 2020**, U.S. Mountain Daylight Time. All entries must be received prior to this date and time in order to be considered.

Who is eligible to compete?

The contest is open to individual girls and boys in grades 9-12 who are residents of New Mexico and whose drinking water at home and/or at school is provided by a member utility of New Mexico Rural Water Association.

Employees of New Mexico Rural Water Association and their immediate families or those living in the same household are not eligible to enter this competition.

Each individual contest participant is restricted to one Submission only.

How will entries be judged and by whom?

Submissions will be judged by a slate of volunteers that include professionals from rural water operators, board members, administration personnel, and industry experts. **In addition to checking that submissions meet all of the basic rules.**

Finalists will be judged by the NMRWA Annual Awards and Scholarship Committee.

The decisions of the judges are final and incontestable.

When will the winners be announced?

Finalists will be notified in writing via email by June 25th, 2020 and will be required to submit a signed copy of the NMRWA Use License and Release giving the NMRWA permission to publish the entry should it be selected as a winner.

Winners will be announced during the 2020 Annual Conference Awards Banquet in April, and the winning entries will be posted on the NMRWA website by August 1, 2020. A list of contest winners may be obtained by submitting a request in writing to: NMRWA Essay Contest.

What are the prizes, and how will they be distributed?

Winners will receive the prizes listed below:

-  First-place winners will be awarded \$500.
-  Second-place entries will be awarded \$250.
-  Third-place entries will be awarded \$100.

All winning entries will be published on the NMRWA website. Honorable Mention entries will not receive a cash award but will be published on the NMRWA website.

Prize funds will be distributed to an individual winner (or the winner's parent or guardian, if the winner is under 18 years old). Any federal, state, and local taxes, and all similar fees and assessments, are the sole responsibility of the prize recipient.

Additional Requirements and Disclaimers

By entering this competition, each individual entrant (for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) grants the NMRWA a worldwide nonexclusive, royalty-free, transferable license to use the essay, or any portion thereof, for NMRWA purposes, and grants NMRWA a world-wide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable license to use the entrants' names, likenesses, photographs, and/or biographical information for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes.

If selected as a winner, each individual (and for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) hereby agrees to irrevocably grant and assign exclusively to the NMRWA all rights, including copyright interests in the essays, under all laws, treaties and conventions throughout the world, in all forms, languages and media, now or hereafter known or developed without limitation. Use, publication, or dissemination by winners of their respective essay may be permitted at the discretion of NMRWA, as approved in writing in advance by the NMRWA. Submitting an essay to this competition does not guarantee that the Submission will be displayed or used by NMRWA.

Use by NMRWA of a Submission does not necessarily reflect the views of the NMRWA, and in no event shall NMRWA assume or have any responsibility or liability for any Submission, in whole or in part, or for any claims, damages, or losses resulting from the use and/or appearance of any Submission or the contents thereof.

NMRWA reserves the right to refuse any Submission in its sole discretion. NMRWA also reserves the right at any time during the competition to remove or disqualify any Submission when it believes in its sole discretion that the entrant has: (i) infringed any third party's copyright; (ii) failed to comply with these Terms and Conditions; or (iii) failed to obtain the necessary consents as set out in these terms and conditions.

NMRWA shall not be liable for any claims, costs, liabilities, damages, expenses, and losses arising out of (i) NMRWA's use of the Submission; (ii) the entrant's participation in the competition; (iii) technical failures of any kind including but not limited to problems or delays arising from software or equipment malfunctions or computer viruses; and (iv) any events outside NMRWA's reasonable control.

By entering this competition, each individual entrant, (and for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) represents and warrants that: (i) the entrant is the sole author, creator, and owner of the Submission; (ii) except for material used by permission, none of the intellectual property rights in the Submission, or any portion thereof, has been assigned or transferred to anyone other than the entrant; (iii) the Submission, through its creation and its submission as an entry, does not violate any applicable laws; and (iv) the Submission, through its creation and its submission as an entry, does not infringe upon or violate intellectual property rights held by any third person or party.

Any entrant who supplies false information, enters the NMRWA Essay Contest by fraudulent means, or is otherwise determined to be in violation of the eligibility criteria or terms of NMRWA Essay Contest shall be ineligible for any prize and shall be required to forfeit any prize obtained based on such information or means.

By entering a Submission in the Contest, each entrant (and for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) agrees to comply with and be bound by the official rules and decisions of NMRWA.

All references to NMRWA contained herein refer to the New Mexico Rural Water Association.

The Contest shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New Mexico.