

Illinois Municipal Utilities Association & the City/Village of _____ 2017 Scholarship Program Application



Student's Name: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Village: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Utility Account Number: _____

Utility Billing Address: _____

High School: _____

Educational Institution you plan to attend: _____

Please list any extracurricular activities or awards (use separate sheet of paper if needed):

Please attach a copy of transcripts and completed essay of 500 words or less and mail to:

**Illinois Municipal Utilities Association
Attention: Scholarship Committee
3400 Conifer Drive
Springfield, IL 62711
Postmark by Friday, March 10, 2017**

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





IMUA 2017 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: High school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential consumers of an IMUA member utility may submit written essays to win a \$500 scholarship.

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1. Students must complete the enclosed application and submit, along with a copy 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, gas or electric 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:

Q. Tax-Exempt Financing - Tax-exempt bonds and other forms of municipal finance enable public power communities to make investments in much-needed local infrastructure improvements, such as roads, sewers and bridges. In recent years, both Congress and past Administrations have considered eliminating and/or severely restricting the use of such financing options, which would restrict municipalities' access to these sources of low-cost capital. What do you see as the downside of such actions, and why? What are the benefits of preserving these forms of municipal financing, and how could such preservation benefit local communities and their residents? Please provide specific examples of tax-exempt financed projects within your respective municipality.

Q. Cyber Security - Like banks and credit card companies, the electric utility and nuclear power industries are among those that are constantly subject to computer "hacking" and other forms of on-line intrusions. What precautions can utilities take to protect themselves and their customers as well as help guarantee integrity of the nation's electric grid? Why is it imperative to do so? What are the consequences of failing to implement safeguards and best practices?

Q. Electric (General) – Customers of municipally-owned and operated utilities (public power communities) traditionally enjoy a number of cost-related advantages compared to those served by other energy providers (ie, investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives). What are these advantages and how do they benefit your community? What impact do you see on their value in light of possible environmental changes and restrictions?

Q. Electric (Workforce) – In light of an aging workforce, the public power industry faces a constant challenge to attract and retain qualified employees in a number of energy-related positions and occupations, such as electric linemen, engineers and other such operations personnel. What can be done to help public power utilities attract and retain qualified employees to replace those who retire?

5. The deadline for submitting written essays is **Friday, March 10, 2017**. 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 \$500 award from IMUA. **Winners will be announced sometime in April.**

GOOD LUCK!

*PARTNERS IN DELIVERING
EXCELLENCE IN UTILITY SERVICES.*

**ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGENCY
ILLINOIS PUBLIC ENERGY AGENCY
ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION
WWW.IMEA.ORG**