



16th Annual West Virginia Lions Youth Camps and Exchange Scholarship Contest

Rules and Procedures

A. Objectives

- To serve the first objective of Lionism: “To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.”
- To encourage West Virginia youth to experience cultures of other countries by cultural youth exchange arranged by Lions, which includes a 4-5 week stay with one or more host families and may include a youth camp.
- To encourage West Virginia families to host youth from other countries through the Lions International Youth Camps and Exchange program.

B. Winners Receive:

- First Place: \$2000 toward travel expenses to country selected.
 - Second Place: \$1000 toward travel expenses to country selected
- The selection committee will also name one alternate. In the event the First place winner chooses not to travel, the Second place winner will receive \$2000 toward travel and the alternate would receive the \$1000 second place prize toward travel. If sufficient funds are available, a Third place winner will be chosen and the amount of money will be determined.

Please note that scholarships funds will not cover all your trip expenses or camp costs.

C. Eligibility - All youth fulfilling the following conditions are encouraged to enter the scholarship contest:

- Enrolled in high school or home study, grades 10-12, or a recent graduate.
- Age 16-21 years of age by June 1 of the next calendar year.
- A resident of West Virginia.

Please note that students who do not win scholarship funding may still participate in the Lions Youth Camps and Exchange Program, at their own expense. However, the Youth Exchange Committee may award \$500 travel grants if funds are available.

D. Contest Time Frame-The Scholarship Contest begins on September 1 and ends on November 15. Entries must be postmarked by November 15th. Email entries

are not accepted. Semi-finalists from each of the four WV Lions districts will be selected and notified by **December 1st**. The semi-finalists will be asked to come for interviews at a central location in early-December for final selection.

E. Entry forms with essays and accompanying documents are be mailed to:

**WV Lions Youth Camps and Exchange Scholarship Contest
C/o Sue Via, PO Box 37, Union, WV 24983**

F. Selection of Winners:

The Youth Camps and Exchange Committee in each district shall select two finalists to represent their district by December 1st. Then, by early December at a central state location, a panel of not less than two volunteer judges, along with at least one member of the Youth Camps and Exchange Committee, will interview the finalists of all four districts, at which time a First, and a Second Place winner will be chosen, plus one alternate.

G. Restrictions:

- If a youth has previously won first place through this program he/she is not eligible to enter again.
- The youth and parents will agree to conform to the WV Lions Youth Camps and Exchange Programs rules as set forth herein.
- Scholarship funds may only be used in connection with a Lions youth exchange.
- Exchange trips take place between mid-June and mid-August.

H. Youth Responsibilities:

- During the overseas exchange, winning youth should be prepared to speak in English for 15-30 minutes to a local Lions Club about themselves, life in the US and in West Virginia, his/her experiences thus far.
- After the trip, the youth should be prepared to make a brief presentation to the sponsoring Lions club or another club near his/her community.
- During the exchange, youth should be prepared to act as a representative of their community, West Virginia and the USA and to abide by the host family customs and rules as well as that of any youth camp attended.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving your entry.

More information about Lions Clubs and the Lions Youth Camps and Exchange Program can be found at www.wvlions.org and www.lionsclubs.org and click on Youth Programs/Youth Camps and Exchange.

If you have any questions, you may contact a member of the WV Lions Youth Exchange Committee below:

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