



**2018 Scholarship Essay Contest
RGISC's Luis Zapata Memorial Scholarship Fund
Guidelines for Essay Submission**

Per its mission to study and protect the Rio Grande – an endangered river that serves as our only source of drinking water – and to engage the youth and general public in environmental education programs, the Rio Grande International Study Center is proud to sponsor a scholarship essay competition among area high schools.

Chartered by the state of Texas in January 1994, RGISC is Laredo's leading environmental nonprofit organization.

Mission:

To preserve and protect the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo, its watershed and environment, through awareness, advocacy, research, education, stewardship and bi-national collaboration for the benefit of present and future generations.”

Essay Topic

Identify a local environmental issue that has the potential to harm our only source of drinking water, the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo. Explain how you would mobilize the local community and governing bodies – Nuevo Laredo included – to take on this problem?

Who is Eligible:

Students must be:

- graduating high school students (juniors or seniors)
- officially enrolled in a high school in Webb County or Zapata County.
- graduating students from public, private, and charter schools are all welcome to apply.

Parameters:

Essay must be:

- * Relevant to the RGISC mission;
- * 1,000-1,250 words;
- * Double-spaced typed;
- * 1-inch margin all around
- * Size 12 font (Times New Roman or Courier New)
- * Include at least 3 citations (excluding Wikipedia) in MLA citation format.
- * We encourage applicants to familiarize themselves with our Website, www.rgisc.org.
- * Essay must include a Cover Page that contains the following 6 elements:
 - ✓ title that captures the essence of your essay,
 - ✓ full name of student,
 - ✓ phone number,
 - ✓ email address,
 - ✓ school name,
 - ✓ counselor name.

NOTE: Failure to comply with any of these parameters will result in a disqualification of essay submission.

Deadline

All essays must be submitted electronically by MONDAY, APRIL 30 by 11:59 pm. (**Firm Deadline**).

Where to Submit

Electronic copies must be attached to an e-mail and sent to: info@rgisc.org.

Word and PDF formats are both acceptable.

Winners

Two winners will be announced at RGISC's 24th Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

Winners will receive a scholarship from the RGISC Luis Zapata Scholarship Fund to be used toward their college education.

- Finalist will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Runner-up finalist will receive a \$500 scholarship.

A member of the RGISC Board of Directors will contact the winning students and their high school counselor a week in advance of the RGISC Annual Meeting to coordinate details for attending the event.

For questions about submission or essay criteria, please call the RGISC office at (956) 718-1063 or email us at info@rgisc.org.