

THE PROCESS

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP STATEWIDE ESSAY PROGRAM

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Eligibility:** Graduating High School Seniors in the State of Florida who will **receive their high school diploma in spring 2026** and **who will be attending a STATE OF FLORIDA SUPPORTED INSTITUTION (college, university, community college, technical college, or other such institution of higher education governed by the Florida State Board of Regents or the Florida Department of Education)** during the following term (semester or quarter). The applicant must enter the school within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions) after having been awarded the scholarship.
- Requirements:** **An essay of no less than 1,000 words or more than 1,250 words on the topic “Why Education is Important”** and a completed **Scholarship Application Form**. All work must be original and the essay becomes the property of The Grand Lodge of Florida.
- Deadline:** **January 20, 2026**. The application and essay must be received by the State Chairman no later than midnight on January 20, 2026. Any applications and essays received after that date will be returned.
- Submission:** **Send essay and application as a Word file or PDF file attached to an email message. Send to Dr. Oscar Patterson, III, at opatters@comcast.net. In the subject line enter “Grand Lodge Scholarship Application”**
- Purpose:** To continue Freemasonry’s support of the youth in our society and to reinforce our belief in the Public School Systems in our nation.
- Information:** Scholarship checks will be made payable to the institution designated by the recipient and placed into an account for the sole purpose of the recipient’s use. If not utilized within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions), the scholarship will be withdrawn and added to the following year’s program.
- Essay Format:** The essay submitted should conform to the **Format Guide**. Please refer to the following pages for the application and guidelines on essay preparation. It is critical that all essays submitted contain the proper content—the topic is **“Why Education is Important”**. Essays will be judged based upon **adherence to format, content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and other such aspects.**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP
STATEWIDE ESSAY PROGRAM
FORMAT GUIDE**

1. The essay should be typed using Times New Roman type case.
2. Type size should be 12 pt.
3. The essay, including the cover page, should be double spaced with no additional spaces between paragraphs.
4. The essay should be typed using standard indentation at the beginning of each paragraph.
5. The standard margin should be one inch (1 in.) top, bottom, left, and right.
6. The essay should have a cover page. Centered on the cover page, top to bottom and between the margins should be the following: title of essay, author's full name, name of school at which currently enrolled.
7. Pages should be numbered beginning with the title page as page 1. Page numbers should be in the upper right corner of each page.
8. Each page should contain a header, also in the upper right, which contains the author's last name. Should the title page be separated from the essay, this will provide for immediate identification. If MS Word is used to prepare the essay, the inclusion of a header and page number may be preset. Refer to MS Word Help for instructions on the use of headers.
9. **The exact word count should be included at the end of the essay. The essay should be no less than 1,000 words nor more than 1,250 words in length.** If the author utilizes MS Word, the word count may be printed automatically. Refer to MS Word Help for directions.
10. The essay will be judged based on content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and other such aspects of proper language usage and essay construction as well as adherence to format.
11. It is strongly recommended that the author ask a member of the school's English faculty to review the essay for format, style, content, and construction prior to submission.