

CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE

The San Diego Chapter of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) will award a minimum of five (5) \$1,000 scholarships to graduating San Diego County high school seniors. Local special districts will each select a finalist to compete for the regional prizes. Winners will be chosen based on the quality of essays prepared by the applicants, as well as academic and service qualifications. Applicants must submit the following documents by **Friday, March 14, 2008**:

1. Completed application form.
2. High school transcript and college registration information.
3. School/Community involvement:
 - a. One letter of recommendation from a high school faculty member.
 - b. One letter of character reference from a personal or professional associate.
4. A typewritten personal statement (two pages or less). **Format - Arial 12 font and 1 inch margins top, bottom, left and right, with 1½ inch line spacing.** Possible topics include the student's reasons for applying for the scholarship or seeking a higher education, the student's educational/career goals, personal background and interests, etc.
5. A typewritten essay (two pages or less) about **the purpose of Special Districts; What do you feel are the benefits and services of special districts; How do special districts fit into the California governmental structure; What special districts serve your area?** **Format - Arial 12 font and 1 inch margins top, bottom, left and right, with 1½ inch line spacing.**

The statement will be judged on originality and demonstrated understanding of the subject matter. Applicants are encouraged to research the topic through one or more of the following methods:

- a. Library/internet research,
- b. Attendance at a special district agency Board meeting, or
- c. Oral interviews with special district employees or officials.

Students may obtain an application package and introduction to special districts through www.rmwd.org, their school's Scholarship Counselor, or Annette Finley of the Ramona Municipal Water District at 760-789-1330.

Submit the completed application package to **Annette Finley, Ramona Municipal Water District, 105 Earlham Street, Ramona, CA 92065, or drop off at the same address, on or before March 14, 2008.**

Each special district will review qualified applications and select a finalist. Finalists will be considered, and regional winners selected, by a committee formed by the San Diego Chapter of the CSDA. The \$1,000 Scholarship winners selected by the Committee will be honored at a CSDA dinner meeting the evening of Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Good luck!!!

**CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

(Competition is open to high school seniors enrolled through May 2008
who live within the Ramona Municipal Water District service area)

Name _____

Telephone number and best time to call: _____

Address _____

High School _____ GPA _____

District(s) you live in or attend school in: _____

Post high school education plans (college, vocational school, on-the-job-training, etc.)

Service performed through school organizations, volunteer of community activities, church
or clubs, etc. (Include contact name/telephone for verification where possible)

Honors or special recognitions received (school or other)

If employed, job title and total hours per week _____

Job Responsibilities _____

This application being submitted via: **RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

Other District(s) application submitted to: _____

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CSDA MEMBER DISTRICT IS PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
ATTACHED IS THE LIST OF SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CSDA MEMBER DISTRICTS.

What is a special District?

Special districts are a type of local government that delivers specific public services within defined boundaries.

State law defines a special district as "any agency of the state for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries" (Government Code §16271 [d]).

Special districts can be distinguished by four common characteristics:

- A form of government.
- Governed by a board.
- Provides services and facilities.
- Has defined boundaries.

Inadequate tax bases and competing demands for existing taxes make it hard for cities and counties to provide all the services their citizens desire. When residents or landowners want new services or higher levels of existing services, they can form a district to pay for them. There are fire districts, irrigation districts, and pest abatement districts existing today because taxpayers were willing to pay for public services they wanted. Special districts localize the costs and benefits of public services.

So, what makes us "special" is **focused service**. Focused because special districts only serve in specifically defined areas, unlike counties and cities that provide services throughout their boundaries. Special districts are also focused because most of them provide only a single service, allowing them to concentrate on one activity. Service because special districts deliver public programs and public facilities that their constituents want. Cities and counties must provide a wide variety of services, some of them mandated by the federal and state governments. Special districts provide the public services that the public wants.

Download a copy of "What's so special About Special Districts" at <http://www.csda.net/images/Whatsso.pdf>.