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Executive Director:
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December 2019

TO: Minnesota's Public and Private High Schools
FROM: David Hann, Executive Director
RE: **Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program**

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2020 Scholarship Program, which awards up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. All students currently enrolled in the 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial high school, or a home-study program, are eligible for this program. Participants will submit a written essay on the theme of MAT's 2020 Educational Conference "*Township Day*." Applications for the scholarships must be submitted by **May 1, 2020**. Winners will be chosen and notified by **October 1** and invited to attend our Awards Banquet in St. Cloud, Minnesota on November 20, 2020.

MAT is a nonprofit corporation representing Minnesota townships and its 9,000 plus officers. Townships embody the values of "grassroots government." MAT's specific purposes are educational and charitable: educating the public about the heritage and future of township government and its role in state government, and providing townships and their officers with a single, unified voice, as well as access to educational programs and research-based materials to help foster the delivery of efficient, effective, and economical township government.

Please contact our office if you would like more information on MAT. Our office can also arrange for an elected township official or one of our Board of Directors to come to your school and make a presentation on township government.

Please take a few minutes to read the enclosed application requirements and become familiar with our scholarship program. We have enclosed two applications and a poster, however if you need additional copies, please photocopy as many as you need; visit our website, www.mntownships.org. If you have any questions, please call our office and a member of our staff will readily assist you; our number is 1-800-228-0296.

Please Note: This will be the only mailing your school will receive regarding this scholarship program. Please notify your career counselors and 11th grade instructors and students of this program.

A news release is sent to MN daily and weekly papers the first week of December and we send a release to the known home-school newsletters.



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is awarding \$2,000 scholarships to up to five juniors currently attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial high school, or a home study program, that plan to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school.

Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with a written essay discussing this year's topic, which concerns the theme of MAT's 2020 Educational Conference: *Township Day*. The question is:

The second Tuesday in March is Township Day. Every year each township holds their Annual Meeting. This meeting is often described as the 'people's meeting.' There are rights and authorities given to the electors at that meeting, but those rights and authorities are limited: **So, if you were an elector, how would you proceed with getting an action to happen and which one or more of the rights and authorities would you use and why?**

Essays must be between 450 and 500 words, typed and double spaced.

- Applicants should not name themselves, their school, their town or city, or their local officials in or on the essay.
- Each essay will be judged by an independent panel based upon originality, knowledge of subject matter in relationship conference theme, and supporting statements, as well as correct spelling and punctuation.
- Applicants must be a high school junior to apply.

Along with the completed application and written essay, students must submit:

- A current high school transcript
- A letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or counselor
- All items must be submitted in one envelope **postmarked by May 1, 2020**, and mailed to:

Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376,
Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after May 1 will not be accepted.

Winners will be notified in writing by **October 1, 2020** and will be invited to attend the MAT annual banquet on November 20, 2020 in St. Cloud, MN. Scholarship awards will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon receipt of verification of enrollment at a college, university, or technical school.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Home telephone (____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County _____

Do you live in a Township? _____ If yes, Township Name _____

High School Presently Attending _____

Parent's names _____

Hobbies or activities of interest _____

Future goals _____

Any other comments you care to make about yourself? _____

Research Tips:

- Visit our website, www.mntownships.org
- Ask a township officer about annual meeting
- References: MN Statute §365.10; MN Statute §366
- If you do research on the web or in your local library – be sure to look for 'Minnesota (or MN) townships' so you are finding relevant information.
- View the MAT DVD 'Foundation of Democracy' (you or your school counselor can call us and get one)