

## Houston Area GIS Scholarship Essay Contest 2016

**Prizes of \$300 for 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$150 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and \$50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** dollar scholarship will be awarded to the winners of a **500 word essay contest** on a **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** topic sponsored by the **HGAW** in conjunction with National Geography Week. The purpose of this scholarship is to help you understand the importance of GIS in the real-world and to award those students interested in geospatial study.

**What is GIS:** GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing information about an object's geographic location with identifying features to solve problems, track trends, and make predictions.

**Who may apply:** You must be a high school junior or senior in the greater Harris county and surrounding area. Home schooled students are also eligible. There is no age limit. You must be sponsored by a teacher and school.

### How to apply:

- Students should write a **five paragraph 500 word essay** on why GIS is important in the real-world or its uses.
- See topic examples below and <http://www.factmonster.com/homework/wsfivepara.html>.
- Each sponsoring school should select only its **top (3)** entries for submittal.
- **Entries should be emailed no later than November 15th at 1pm to [maria.vera@houstontranstar.org](mailto:maria.vera@houstontranstar.org).**
- **For more information** you may also call **Maria Vera Flores at 713-881-3278.**
- Only **one essay** will be accepted per applicant.

**Cover page information that should be included with your essay (which does not count towards your 500 word limit):**

- **Full Name:**
- **Address: Street, City, State, Zip**
- **Contact email or phone number:**
- **Age/School Classification (Junior or Senior):**
- **School Name/Address/and Sponsoring Teacher Name:**

**Topic examples:** What is GIS used for in county and city government in day-to-day functions? How has GIS helped: humanitarian operations; natural disaster preparation and response; epidemiology; planetary applications; border conflict; or modeling of river water quality? Uses of GIS by your phone applications. What does a GIS entail? How can GIS help my community? If you were to have a career in geography, what would it be and why? How would you use GIS for your job?

**Judging and award:** Essays will be judged by a panel on language, depth, and creativity. The scholarship winner will be announced **November 17, 2016 at the GIS Student Day event to be held at the Harris County Department of Education in closing ceremonies.** HGAC will send the winner a check for the full amount to be used for further education upon verification of winning and contact information. Please visit our website: [www.HoustonAreaGISDay.org](http://www.HoustonAreaGISDay.org) for more information on GIS Day. 2016.