

# MULE DEER FOUNDATION

## Texas State Chapters

# 2018 ESSAY CONTEST



The contest is open to current and active Texas Chapter Mule Deer Foundation immediate family members ages 9-17 as of September 1, 2018.\*\* Ten (10) winners, each accompanied by a non-hunting chaperone guest, will be invited to hunt Mule Deer in the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas during the 2018-2019 Hunting Season.

### The theme is “Mule Deer Conservation Requires a Team Effort”

\*\* The entrant must have also meet further eligibility requirements by providing verification within his/her application packet of: 1) a successfully-completed Hunter Education Course, which meets the International Hunter Education Association’s recommended standards, 2) the possession/purchase of a current 2018 Texas Youth Hunting License and 3) activation of a Texas Youth Hunting Program ([www.tyhp.org](http://www.tyhp.org)) Youth Hunter Account. Please note that, if selected as a hunt recipient, the above items must also be provided upon check-in at the hunt’s mandatory Safety Orientation.

### Essay Contest Rules

Only one (1) essay entry per entrant per contest may be submitted. Additional submissions will not improve the chances of an entrant’s selection and will immediately disqualify the entrant.

An entry shall contain two (2) paper-clipped or stapled packets within one (1) envelope consisting of:

- one (1) essay Title Page. (see below instructions)
- one (1) photocopy of the entrant’s Hunter Education Certificate.
- one (1) photocopy of the entrant’s 2018 Texas Youth Hunting License.
- one (1) photocopy of the member’s Mule Deer Foundation membership card.
- one (1) photocopy of the entrant’s Texas Youth Hunting Program Youth Hunter Account.
- one (1) screen print / photocopy of the word processor’s Word Count.
- one (1) essay printed on white, unlined paper.



The essay’s Title Page should include the entrant’s: Full Name (First, Middle & Last), COMPLETE Mailing Address, Daytime and Evening Telephone Numbers, e-mail address and Mule Deer Foundation Chapter Name / Chapter Location.

Entries should be mailed or shipped (via the United States Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, etc.) to the Texas MULEY Statewide Coordinator, 12208 Montana Springs Drive, Marble Falls, TX 78654. E-mail entries will not be accepted. Entries must be postmarked NO LATER THAN August 31, 2018 and must be received NO LATER THAN September 7, 2018.

#### Essay Guidelines & Structure

Essays must be the original and complete work of the applicant. No assistance in writing, editing or proof-reading is permissible. While we do encourage applicants to brainstorm and discuss topic options with their parents and other resources, the construction and language of each essay should be entirely done by the applicant.

\*\*\* Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. \*\*\*

A parent or legal guardian may:

- \* TYPE essays for younger or disabled applicants.
- \* DIRECT applicants to resources, where answers can be found.
- \* ADVISE students for grammar/spelling suggestions proposed by a word processor.

#### Essay Length

The target length of this essay is 500 words. The minimum length of submissions shall, however, be no less than 450 words (or 1 page), while the maximum length shall be no more than 550 words (or 2 pages). Submissions that do not meet these requirements, or that exceed it, will be immediately disqualified.

#### Non-identifying Information

Absolutely no identifying information (i.e. first or last names, addresses or locales, chapter information, age, gender, etc.) may be contained within the body of the essay, nor upon any portion of the paper, including the margins or on the back of the paper. In summary, no other identification information should appear on these pages, to ensure the judging is objective and impartial.

#### Source Material

For the purposes of this essay, only a body is required. No abstract, references, appendices, footnotes, etc. are required and will not improve the chances of an entrant’s selection. Further, the inclusion of this information, as well as any tables, graphs or artwork (i.e. clip art, pictures, sketches, etc.), within the body of the essay will immediately disqualify the entrant.

#### Entry Fee(s)

There shall be no entry fee; however, entrants are expected to have successfully completed Hunter Education Association training and have purchased a 2017 Texas State Youth Hunting License.

#### Formatting

Essays shall be printed on unlined, white 8.5” x 11” paper. The entire paper shall be double-spaced. Entrants shall use size 12 and either Times New Roman or Courier fonts. Margins of the document shall be set to 1” inch on all sides.



#### Judging

Every reasonable effort will be exercised to ensure the judging of essays is objective, impartial and fair. Essays will be kept anonymous and evaluated by the Texas MULEY Statewide Coordinator and/or a panel of judges appointed by the Texas MULEY Statewide Coordinator. Essays will be judged on their ability to answer the topic question in an articulate, clear and organized manner, including writing style (10%), originality of thought (15%), grammar and spelling (30%), logic and clarity (30%) and content (15%) toward a total maximum score of 200 points. A maximum of ten (10) finalists – five (5) from the 9-12 age range and five (5) from the 13-17 age range – will be selected from an overall numerical ranking with positions below the top positions assigned standby positions from, again, an overall numerical ranking. All decisions by the judge(s) are final.

#### Preparing for the Hunt

Winners will be notified NO LATER THAN September 28, 2017 and announced, later, via the MDF Magazine. The top ten (10) finalists must confirm BOTH their intent and their ability to hunt to the Texas State MULEY Coordinator NO LATER THAN October 12, 2017 or forfeit their position. All winners MUST attend an on-site Safety Orientation immediately prior to the beginning of the hunt. Any winner that fails to attend the hunt without having provided notice 72 hours in advance of the hunt’s Begin Date, and after having confirmed their intent to hunt and their ability to hunt, will be disqualified from future contests. Chaperones accompanying winning applicants on their hunting trip must be the applicant’s parent, legal guardian, or another adult chosen with the approval of the applicant’s parents or legal guardians. Travel accommodations beyond primitive lodging and simple meals will be the responsibility of the winner/chaperone to secure. This will be a Spot-and-Stalk hunt, which can be very physically demanding: Be prepared!