



STUDENT APPLICATION/ESSAY

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY TO MEET REQUIRED CRITERIA

- Include the following information in a single MS WORD document. *Other formats/multiple files will not be accepted.*
- Name your file as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Schoolinitials (ex: Smith.Jane.ABC)
- Title your pages and number your answers to match the information below.
- Your **ONE** Word file should contain all THREE parts.

PART 1, Page 1: PERSONAL DATA (ALL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED)

- 1.1 Your Name
- 1.2 Email address
- 1.3 Phone (*best number for contacting you*) *We will contact you primarily by email.*
- 1.4 Parents or Guardians
- 1.5 High School
- 1.6 Student Counselor
- 1.7 GPA (*Must be 85 and above.*)

Refer to the Rubric on the back to see how the applications are scored.

In order to keep your application anonymous for scoring, your personal data will be redacted from Parts 2 and 3 below. Please do not include your name or any reference to your school in the following information.

PART 2, Page 2: PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 2.1 What has been your involvement in school and/or community activities during your high school career? (ie. sports, clubs, groups, activities, etc.)
- 2.2 List any awards you have received and/or achievements you have accomplished in your school and/or community.
- 2.3 What are your goals, career plans and ambitions?

PART 3, Page 3: ESSAY

What do you think should be our nation's top priority? Explain why and how you would address it.

Essay Criteria:

- The essay should be double spaced, **300-500** words.
- Correct grammar, punctuation and spelling are important.
- You will be scored on what you have to say and how well you say it. AI generated content will not be accepted.

SUBMISSION:

1. Complete all three parts and upload your WORD document to: <https://bit.ly/Youth-Salute-Upload>. Any other file format will be returned for resubmission, and resubmission must meet the deadline.
2. Send a copy of your application to your counselor so they have a record of your submission.

➔ DUE: Thursday, April 30 by 5:00 p.m. (files received after this date will not be accepted)

Your application/essay will be read and scored anonymously by Elmira Rotarians. If you rate among the Top 10, you will be contacted in August to schedule an interview for selecting the top three awards, to be held in the first week of September. The Youth Salute Awards Luncheon for ALL participants will be held in October 2026.

CASH AWARDS:

FIRST Place: \$3,000 • **SECOND Place:** \$1,000 • **THIRD Place:** \$500

ROTARY CODE: R- _____

GPA _____

Rubric for Involvement, Academics, Achievements and Essay to be used for scoring the applications by Rotarians.

INVOLVEMENT: 25 POINTS	POINTS	SCORE
Involvement in school/community activities Sports, clubs, groups, activities	20	
Direction and purpose in life Goals, career plans, ambitions	5	
ACADEMICS/ACHIEVEMENTS: 35 POINTS	POINTS	SCORE
Sense of academic responsibility & ability	25	
Awards, citations, notable achievements in school, community, etc.	10	
ESSAY: 40 POINTS	POINTS	SCORE
Spelling, grammar, syntax, style	15	
Content of essay	25	
TOTAL SCORE		

GPA Formula Chart

4.0 = 93-95 = A

3.7 = 90-92 = A-

3.3 = 87-89 = B+

3.0 = 83-86 = B

2.7 = 80-82 = B-

2.3 = 77-79 = C+