Rotary District 710 Essay Contest
Student Guidelines

Open to High School Juniors & Seniors
Deadline to local Rotary Club is **February 6, 2026**

Theme: Unite for Good

Rotary International's theme this year is *Unite for Good*. It reminds us that true progress begins when people come together with a shared purpose. The word *unite* speaks to the strength we find in one another. When we combine our talents, compassion, and resources across clubs, schools, organizations, and communities, we expand our reach and create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured by a single project or one year of effort. Its impact grows over time, especially through education and literacy, where the seeds we plant today will benefit future generations.

Essay Prompt:

Please reflect on the meaning of *Unite for Good* in your own life, school, or community. Describe a specific example from your life where uniting for a common purpose made a difference. Why is it important to think beyond short-term goals and build something that endures?

Your essay should show reflection on Rotary's message and demonstrate how collaboration, perseverance, and service can help shape a better world.

Why does Rotary District 7410 conduct this Essay Contest?

Rotarians volunteer from 35,000 Rotary clubs worldwide, with a total of more than 1.2 million members in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary Youth Programs invest in instilling a core interest in the value of service, and its impact on humanity. Each year, Rotary District 7410 invites high school students from across Northeastern Pennsylvania to share their voices through our annual Essay Contest. This is an opportunity for students to express their ideas, build confidence, and reflect on the Rotary values that shape our world.

Prizes

The local club may offer a prize to its winning student, whose essay will then be submitted for District-level judging. At the District level, prizes will be awarded as follows: $1,000 for first place, $500 for second place, and $250 for third place. District awards will be presented by District Governor Mr. Tim Genetti at a meeting of the local Rotary Club whose student is selected.

Length & Presentation Method

The essay should be approximately 1,000 words. The essay should be typewritten, double-spaced, and must be submitted with the following information: *Student Name, School Name, Grade Level, Student Email, Parent/Guardian Name, Parent/Guardian Email, Parent/Guardian Phone, and Parent/Guardian Mailing Address.*

Essays must be saved as a PDF file and attached to an email which is then submitted to the local Rotary Club. Google Docs and/or links to essays will not be accepted.

AI Use Policy

Essays must be written entirely by the student. Use of artificial intelligence tools for drafting, rewriting, or editing is not permitted. Entries suspected of AI assistance may be subject to follow-up review. Students certify upon submission that the work is their own and understand that violation will result in disqualification.