

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP**  
**STATEWIDE ESSAY PROGRAM**

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Eligibility:** All Graduating High School Seniors in the State of Florida **who will be attending a STATE OF FLORIDA SUPPORTED INSTITUTION (college, university, community college, technical college, or other such institution of higher education governed by the Florida State Board of Regents or the Florida Department of Education)** during the following term (semester or quarter). The applicant must enter the school within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions) after having been awarded the scholarship.
- Requirements:** **An essay of no less than 1,000 words or more than 1,250 words on the topic “Why Education is Important”** and a completed **Scholarship Application form**. All work must be original and the essay becomes the property of The Grand Lodge of Florida.
- Deadline:** **January 20, 2018**. The application and essay must be received by the State Chairman no later than midnight on January 20, 2018. Any applications and essays received after that date will be returned.
- Submission:** **Send essay and application as a Word file or pdf file attached to an email message. Send to Dr. Oscar Patterson, III, at opatters@comcast.net. In the subject line enter “Grand Lodge Scholarship Application”**
- Purpose:** To continue Freemasonry’s support of the youth in our society and to reinforce our belief in the Public-School Systems in our nation.
- Information:** Scholarship checks will be made payable to the institution designated by the recipient and placed into an account for the sole purpose of the recipient’s use. If not utilized within one semester/quarter (excluding summer sessions), the scholarship will be withdrawn and added to the following year’s program.
- Essay Format:** The essay submitted should conform to the **Format Guide**. Please refer to the following pages for the application and guidelines on essay preparation. It is critical that all essays submitted contain the proper content—the topic is **“Why Education is Important”**. Essays will be judged based upon **adherence to format, content, grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and other such aspects.**