2026-2027 District 2-X2
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH CONTESTS

Open to all High School Juniors and Seniors

Enrolled in Texas Schools and Residing in the District 2-X2 Area

Diabetes Awareness Essay	**How Youth Can Advance Diabetes Awareness**
Drug Awareness Speech	**Social Media and Drug Exposure**
Outstanding Youth	**Can AI Technology Make Us More Human?**

IMPORTANT DATES

Milestone	Date	Details
District Deadline	**January 18, 2027**	Submit paperwork via email below
District Contest	**January 30, 2027**	Via Zoom
State Orientation	**Saturday, May 1, 2027**	Via Zoom
State Contest	**Saturday, May 8, 2027**	Via Zoom
State Luncheon	**May 22, 2027**	Beaumont — in person; required for first-place State winners

First-place winner in each District category advances to the MD2 State OFY Contest.

READ THE RULES & GUIDELINES THOROUGHLY

Opportunities for Youth – MD2 Lions of Texas (texaslions.org)

For the District Contest, do not follow the timeline or contact information listed on the State website.

DISTRICT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Email by January 18, 2027 to: liondonnelly@gmail.com

- Contest Application and District Responsibilities Checklist (typed)
- Essay, speech, and other required documents for Outstanding Youth*

***Outstanding Youth contestants also need:**

- Biographical information statement
- Leadership/Participation Experience
- A Certified High School Transcript
- Community Service
- Three (3) letters of recommendation

DISTRICT AWARDS & STATE ADVANCEMENT

District 2-X2 Awards

- First Place Scholarship: $500
- Second Place Scholarship: $250

First-place District winners advancing to State

Submit to Lion Sheila Donnelly by March 1, 2027:

- Contestant Code of Conduct
- Medical Power of Attorney
- Chaperone Guidelines
- Color, high-quality wallet or passport-size photo

CONTEST DETAILS & MD2 STATE AWARDS

FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
$3,000	$2,000	$1,000

MD2 State awards are presented in each contest category.

Diabetes Awareness Essay

Topic: *"How Youth Can Advance Diabetes Awareness"*

Diabetes—one of the fastest-growing health challenges in the world—is one of Lions Clubs International's eight Global Causes. Raising awareness is essential to preventing the disease, supporting those living with diabetes, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Through service, education, and compassion, youth have a unique opportunity and the power to make a positive difference in our communities by improving lives and creating a healthier future.

Contest requirement: Essay not to exceed 1,500 words.

Drug Awareness Speech

Topic: *"Social Media and Drug Exposure"*

"We Serve" is more than the Lions Clubs International motto—it is a commitment to building stronger, healthier, and safer communities. In today's digital world, social media has become a powerful influence on how young people learn, communicate, and make decisions. While it offers many opportunities, it can also expose youth to harmful content, including the promotion and normalization of drug use.

Contest requirement: Speech should be 5–7 minutes. No notes or cue cards will be allowed.

Outstanding Youth Contest

Topic: *"Can AI Technology Make Us More Human?"*

Artificial intelligence is changing how we learn, communicate, work, and solve problems. Could AI strengthen the qualities that make us human—compassion, creativity, understanding, and service—or might over-reliance on it weaken human connection? Consider how AI can improve lives and communities, as well as concerns such as misinformation, privacy, unequal access, and the loss of independent thought.

Contest requirement: Evaluation includes a 750–1,000-word essay, biographical statement, community service experience, leadership experience and participation information, three letters of recommendation, high school GPA, and an interview.

QUESTIONS?

District 2-X2 Opportunities for Youth Chairperson
Lion Sheila Donnelly • 903-573-2012 • liondonnelly@gmail.com