



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
SAN JOSE BRANCH

2019 Student Scholarship Essay Competition

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Contest Summary

Write a one-page essay, selecting a topic from one of the two prompts given below. Follow all the rules listed, meet the deadline for submission, and attend the awards banquet April 23, 2019 at Santa Clara University. You may win! (Money.)

Last year 13 students submitted qualifying essays. A total of \$19,360 was awarded to 13 students. The most cash any one person walked (or drove, or rode) home with from the free dinner itself was \$4,300. The least amount was \$300.¹

Essay Prompts

The practice of civil engineering is a discipline, or learned profession, that generally applies physical and scientific principles to plan, design, construct and maintain natural and built environments. Civil engineering takes place within public and private sectors. Generally considered the second oldest discipline of engineering, civil engineering was defined in antiquity to distinguish its practice from that of military engineering. The earliest practice of civil engineering may date to between 4000 and 2000 BC in Egypt, the Indus Valley, and Mesopotamia. Civil engineers, like economists, seek (or should seek) to maximize the use of scarce resources for the benefit of humanity and other living things. Given this:

1. What is the most important historic development in the practice of civil engineering to date? What significant and impactful innovation(s) do you foresee in the future practice of civil engineering, specifically during the time you plan to practice?
2. In an age of increasing population and dwindling natural resources, how can civil engineers best help society? Give a specific example related to the practice of civil engineering.

Evaluation

Essays are judged for content; presentation; spelling, grammar, and punctuation; and the apparent research effort.

¹ Past results do not guarantee future performance. Award amounts subject to a slew of stuff.

2019 ASCE STUDENT AWARDS CONTEST

1. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF AN AWARD RECIPIENT.

An award recipient must:

- a. Be an undergraduate or graduate student in good standing in the Civil Engineering Department at San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, or Stanford University.
- b. Be a member of the ASCE Student Chapter or Club at the school at which he or she is enrolled and be a National Student Member of ASCE (National Membership is FREE!!! <http://www.asce.org>)
- c. Attend the Student Awards Banquet at Santa Clara University – See details below.
- d. Fully comply with the submission rules below. Failure to comply with ANY of the contest rules may result in disqualification.

2. SUBMISSION RULES

To Be Considered For An Award, a Student Must:

- a. Submit an essay not to exceed **one page** in length addressing one of the essay topics outlined on the first page. Include only student's name and membership number on the one-page essay in the upper right hand corner (not your school name). Do not include a cover page or attachments.
- b. Submit a resume not to exceed one page in length, which may include the student's name, address, phone number, experience, interests, and coursework. **Clearly indicate student membership of National ASCE (provide membership number) AND the ASCE Student Chapter.**
- c. **NOT** include grade point average (GPA) or class standing anywhere in the essay or resume.
- d. Submit essay and resume in portable document format (PDF) via email to asce.essay@gmail.com by **11:59PM PST on Monday April 8, 2019.**
- e. Attend the Student Awards Banquet. Students must RSVP at the ASCE San Jose Branch website <http://branches.asce.org/sanjose/> **Students who participate in the essay competition must register for the banquet with a valid .edu email address. Participating students may attend for free but guests must register as a professional.**

3. STUDENT AWARDS BANQUET – MUST ATTEND TO THE END TO WIN:

Date: Tuesday April 23, 2019
Time: 6:00PM to 9:00PM
Location: Santa Clara University
Adobe Lodge <https://www.scu.edu/map/>