

## 2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST



# WATER IS ESSENTIAL

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 6, 2020.**

In 2020, we know now more than ever that access to clean, safe water is critical for public health and safety. And we are more aware of the essential work that happens every day to ensure that access continues, even in a pandemic. The water professionals who work at the utilities and water authorities of the 15-county metro area work hard to provide water and wastewater services so that we don't ever have to worry about meeting a basic human need. In fact, there are thousands of water workers in Georgia that keep our water flowing.

### **Please choose one of the following essay topics:**

1. During this time of pandemic due to COVID-19, why is access to clean, safe water so critical?
2. Research an essential water job and write about the functions of the job, the type of education needed to do this job, why the job is important, and why you would consider doing this job.

### **Successful essays will also show an understanding of the following facts and resources:**

- ◆ Think about all the things you do in a day that require water to keep you safe and clean. The average metro-Atlantan uses around 50 gallons of water a day at home, most of which is used for drinking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and flushing toilets.
- ◆ The Human Water Cycle is the process of how water from a surface water source is treated, carried to your home, and then once used, treated again and returned to the source. Google "human water cycle" for more information.
- ◆ In the 15-county Metro Atlanta region, there are over 50 drinking water and wastewater systems. When your family pays your monthly water bill, remember that much of that money pays for infrastructure (treatment plants, pipes, pumps, etc.) updates, maintenance, and repair, as well as water and wastewater treatment. Think about all the essential water workers that keep water infrastructure running.
- ◆ Visit [www.h2Opportunity.net](http://www.h2Opportunity.net) for more information on the many types of water jobs available.
- ◆ Visit My Drop Counts, [www.mydropcounts.org](http://www.mydropcounts.org)
- ◆ Visit the Value of Water, [www.thevalueofwater.org](http://www.thevalueofwater.org)
- ◆ Visit Clean Water Campaign, [www.cleanwatercampaign.org](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.org)
- ◆ Visit Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, [www.northgeorgiawater.org](http://www.northgeorgiawater.org)

### **Teachers, want to dive a little deeper?**

We encourage you to perform the "What's Your Standard" activity from Georgia Project WET's Urban Watershed (visit [northgeorgiawater.org/essay](http://northgeorgiawater.org/essay) for a link to the activity) with your class to help them gain a better understanding of the natural and manmade infrastructure that keeps our water flowing. If you're not familiar with Georgia Project WET, find out more information about this program, the excellent teaching resources it offers, and how you can participate in trainings at [www.projectwet.georgia.gov](http://www.projectwet.georgia.gov).

