

City of Montebello –Scholarship Announcement Featuring Local Environmental Programs

The City of Montebello is proud to announce a scholarship opportunity that uplifts local high school seniors while highlighting the City’s long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. In partnership with Athens Services, the City’s residential solid waste and recycling provider, the City invites graduating seniors to apply for a scholarship by submitting an original essay within the areas of solid waste, recycling, organics, sustainable consumption, and/or responsible resource use.

This Scholarship program reflects Montebello’s broader environmental mission to achieve a 75% diversion rate across all sectors of the City. Over the past several years, the City has invested heavily in initiatives that reduce waste, expand recycling access, and strengthen community understanding of California’s evolving sustainability laws. From the rollout AB 341 mandatory recycling, SB 1383 organics recycling, to the expansion of food recovery partnerships, Montebello continues to lead with programs that protect natural resources and promote long-term environmental resilience.

Connecting the Scholarship to Montebello’s Environmental Work

Applicants are encouraged to draw inspiration from the City’s own sustainability efforts, including:

- **Citywide Organics Recycling Program (SB 1383 Implementation)** Montebello has implemented organics collection for all residents and businesses, helping divert food scraps and yard waste from landfills. Students may explore how organics recycling reduces methane emissions and supports healthier air quality.
- **Food Recovery and Community Donation Partnerships** The City collaborates with local nonprofits, schools, and food recovery organizations to redirect edible surplus food to families in need. This work demonstrates how sustainable consumption intersects with social equity and community well-being.
- **School Recycling and Environmental Education** Montebello Unified School District campuses participate in recycling and waste-reduction programs supported by the City and Athens Services. Many students have firsthand experience with classroom recycling, green team clubs, and campus clean-up events—experiences that can enrich their essays.
- **Community Clean-Up Events and Beautification Initiatives** Through neighborhood clean-ups, bulky-item collection events, and volunteer-driven beautification projects, Montebello residents actively contribute to a cleaner, safer city. These efforts highlight the power of community participation in environmental progress.
- **Public Outreach and Multilingual Education Campaigns** The City regularly provides workshops, printed materials, and social-media education in multiple languages to ensure all residents understand recycling rules, contamination prevention, and sustainable consumption practices.
- **Used Oil and Beverage Container Efforts** Montebello operates a long-standing Used Oil Recycling Program that provides residents with convenient drop-off locations for used motor oil and oil filters, helping prevent hazardous materials from entering local waterways and landfills. The City also supports a robust Beverage Container Recycling Program, which promotes the

return of CRV-eligible bottles and cans through community events, public-space recycling, and partnerships with local businesses. Together, these programs reduce litter, conserve natural resources, and reinforce Montebello's commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable community.

Students may choose to reflect on how these programs have shaped their understanding of sustainability, influenced their daily habits, or inspired them to think critically about environmental challenges facing Montebello and the region.

Scholarship Requirements and Submission Details

Ten (10) One-Thousand Dollar (\$1,000) scholarships will be awarded to eligible high school seniors residing within the incorporated limits of the City of Montebello and attending Montebello High Schools:

- Applied Technology Center
- Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary High School
- Montebello High School
- Montebello Community Day School
- Schurr High School
- Vail High School

Two (2) scholarships will be awarded per Council District for the 2025 and 2026 Calendar years. In the event a submission is not received from a Council District, the allocated awards will be selected from the remaining eligible recipients.

Essays must be submitted electronically and should follow Modern Language Association style (MLA formatting) and thoughtfully examine how recycling and sustainable consumption conserve natural resources, protect air and water quality, and reduce the need for landfill expansion.

All entries must be submitted by **March 26 at 5:00 p.m.** to the Montebello Public Works Department at engineering@montebelloca.gov.

Awardees will be notified mid to late April with presentations awarded at the Montebello City Council meeting on **May 13, 2026**.

A Scholarship That Reflects Montebello's Values

This scholarship program is more than a financial award—it is an invitation for young residents to engage with the environmental issues shaping their community. By encouraging students to reflect on Montebello's sustainability initiatives and their own experiences, the City hopes to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders, innovators, and advocates.

For additional information about eligibility, submission guidelines, or program details, please contact engineering@montebelloca.gov.