



# 2026

## Public Health Leadership Essay Contest

### Deadline

**Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026,  
at 5:00PM**

Essay and completed entry form must be emailed to the Lincoln County Health Department at [holly.hitt@lincolncountync.gov](mailto:holly.hitt@lincolncountync.gov) or mailed to:

Attention: Lincoln County 2026 Public Health Leadership Essay Contest  
Lincoln County Health Department  
200 Gamble Drive  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Entries must be postmarked by 3/6/2026.

### Questions

Call the Lincoln County Health Department at 704-736-2023

# Lincoln County Board of Health Call to Leadership

**An opportunity for young emerging leaders with a passion for public health.**

### Prizes

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$700 Scholarship & \$75 Gift Certificate**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$450 Scholarship & \$50 Gift Certificate**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$200 Scholarship & \$50 Gift Certificate**

### Topic

Submit an essay in your own words on a public health issue in our country and provide a possible solution. Support your essay with who you believe should resolve the issue, facts, and research (with at least three scholarly sources cited in APA format).

### Eligibility

The contest is open to all currently enrolled Lincoln County high school students (public, private and home-schooled). All guidelines must be followed to remain eligible. Finalists must create a visual presentation and present on April 13 at 6:00 pm and again at the Board of Health Essay Scholarship Ceremony on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm. Students who have previously entered in the Lincoln County Public Health Leadership Essay Contest must submit an original essay on a topic that they have not previously submitted.

### Format

An entry form should accompany the essay. Essays must be typed in black ink, use a 12-point font and be no more than 1500 words. Essays must be double-spaced on 8.5 x 11" paper with 1" margins.



## Lincoln County 2026 Public Health Leadership Essay Contest



Sponsored by Lincoln County Board of Health in partnership with Lincoln County Health Department

### Official Entry Form and Guidelines

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Four-digit combination (for ID purposes only): \_\_\_\_\_

School you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade level: \_\_\_\_\_ How many words does your essay contain? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Lincoln County Public Health Leadership Essay Contest?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Guidelines:

- ✓ **Entry form and essay-** An entry form must accompany the essay. Please ensure that all writing on the entry form is clear and legible. The only identifiable information that should appear on your essay is the four-digit combination provided above. These digits should appear in the upper right corner of the header section of each page of the essay.
- ✓ **Essay topic-** Submit an essay in your own words on a public health issue in our country and provide a possible solution. Support your essay by identifying who you believe should resolve the issue, facts, and research (with at least three scholarly sources cited in APA format). Students who have previously entered the Lincoln County Public Health Leadership Essay Contest must submit an original essay on a topic that they have not previously submitted.
- ✓ **Word limit-** Essays should be no more than 1,500 words.
- ✓ **Format-** Essays must be typed in black ink, double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11" paper, with 12-point font and 1" margins.
- ✓ **Eligibility-** The contest is open to all currently enrolled Lincoln County high school students (public, private and home-schooled). All guidelines must be followed to remain eligible. Finalists must create a visual presentation and present on April 13 at 6:00 pm and again at the Board of Health Essay Scholarship Ceremony on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm.

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Attention: Lincoln County 2026 Public Health Leadership Essay Contest  
Lincoln County Health Department  
200 Gamble Drive  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Questions? Please contact the Lincoln County Health Department at 704-736-2023.