

# 2026

# Why I Want to Go to College

## Writing Sweepstakes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Sponsored by the Nebraska Treasurer's Office and the Omaha Storm Chasers**

Students are asked to reflect on the value of a college education and what they hope to achieve through higher education. **Three winners will be selected from each of Nebraska's three U.S. Congressional Districts. Three winners also will be selected from outside Nebraska.** All winners will receive contributions to NEST education savings plans.



**Prizes courtesy of the Omaha Storm Chasers & Nebraska State Treasurer's Office**

**1st Place:**

- \$2,000 in a Nebraska College Savings Plan
- 4 tickets to the May 3, 2026, Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park with the Nebraska State Treasurer\*

**2nd Place:**

- \$1,000 in a Nebraska College Savings Plan
- 4 tickets to the May 3, 2026, Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park with the Nebraska State Treasurer\*

**3rd Place:**

- \$500 in a Nebraska College Savings Plan
- 4 tickets to the May 3, 2026, Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park with the Nebraska State Treasurer\*

See back page for complete rules and eligibility requirements. *Rules at [treasurer.nebraska.gov/csp/scholarships/essay/college/2026/contest-announcement/](http://treasurer.nebraska.gov/csp/scholarships/essay/college/2026/contest-announcement/)*

- Include required cover sheet.
- No Purchase Necessary to Win
- Limited to students in the 7th or 8th grade in public, private or home school.

\*Omaha Storm Chaser Tickets will only be provided to Winners residing in the State of Nebraska

A teacher or school may submit entries individually or as a group. Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, March 16, 2026**. Winners will be drawn on March 30, 2026. Winners will be notified in April.

**Please send entry and cover sheet to**  
Omaha Storm Chasers, **Attn: Alexis Smith**  
12356 Ballpark Way, Papillion, NE 68046



## Official Rules

# “Why I Want to Go to College” Writing Sweepstakes (“Sweepstakes”)

## NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING

**1. Eligibility:** Participation is open only to individual, legal residents of the fifty (50) United States and the District of Columbia, excluding residents of Florida, New York, Puerto Rico or the U.S. territories, who are enrolled in 7th or 8th Grade (public, private, or home school) as of the date of entry. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. The Sweepstakes is sponsored by The Nebraska State Treasurer's Office, College Savings Division, Room 2005, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94788, Lincoln, NE 68509-4788 and The Omaha Storm Chasers, 12356 Ballpark Way, Papillion, NE 68046 (“Sponsors”). Employees of Union Bank & Trust (“Program Manager”), the Omaha Storm Chasers, the Nebraska State Treasurer, the Nebraska Educational Savings Plan Trust (“NEST”), the Nebraska Investment Council, and each of their respective parents, related, subsidiary and affiliated companies, officers, directors, agents, and representatives (collectively “Releasees”), and each of their immediate family members (spouse, parents, children and siblings, and their respective spouses, regardless where they live) and individuals living in the same households of the above, whether or not related, are not eligible to enter or win. Each entrant, by participating in the Sweepstakes, agrees to be bound by these Official Rules and Sponsors’ and Program Manager’s decisions. The Sweepstakes is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

**2. To Enter:** The entry period for the Sweepstakes begins at 12:00:00 a.m., Central Time (“CT”), on January 20, 2026, and ends at 11:59:59 p.m., CT, on March 16, 2026 (“Sweepstakes Period”). During the Sweepstakes Period, a person may enter in two ways (an “Entrant”):

A. Entrant (or their teacher) may submit a typed, double-spaced essay no longer than 750 words, created, written and produced by the Entrant explaining why the Entrant wants to go to college and the entrant’s goals and dreams for the future. Only essays written by the student Entrant will be eligible. Entries must be submitted by mail and include a cover sheet with the following information: the Entrant’s name, address, phone number, and email address (if available), the Entrant’s school, and the Entrant’s U.S. Congressional District if a Nebraska resident. Mailed essays and cover sheets are to be sent to Omaha Storm Chasers, Attn: Aniya Tate, 12356 Ballpark Way, Papillion, NE 68046. Entries must be postmarked during the Sweepstakes Period and received by March 23, 2026; or

B. An Entrant may enter the Sweepstakes without submitting an essay by hand-printing in ink the following information on a 3” x 5” card: the Entrant’s name, address, phone number, and email address (if available), the Entrant’s school, and the entrant’s U.S. Congressional District if a Nebraska resident., and the words “Why I Want to Go To College Sweepstakes” Mail the card in a stamped #10 envelope to: Omaha Storm Chasers, Attn: Aniya Tate, 12356 Ballpark Way, Papillion, NE 68046. Entries must be postmarked during the Sweepstakes Period and received by March 23, 2026.

Limit one entry per person regardless of entry method. Multiple entries may disqualify all related entries. Submission of an entry constitutes Entrant’s consent to participate in the Sweepstakes, acceptance of and consent to these Official Rules, and consent for the Sponsors and Program Manager to obtain and use Entrant’s name, photo, submission and certain non-identifying information for the purpose of administering this Sweepstakes. The Sweepstakes is not a recommendation to invest in any NEST plan. Submissions will be reviewed by the Sponsors and Program Manager to ensure compliance with the Official Rules and to ensure essay submissions are in the spirit of the Sweepstakes. Submissions must be deemed appropriate, not vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate, and in the spirit of the Sweepstakes, in the discretion of the Sponsor.

**3. Selection of Winners:** Twelve winners will be selected by random drawing on or about March 30, 2026, from among all eligible entries received by the Sponsors. A first, a second and a third place winner will be selected from each Nebraska Congressional District, and a first, a second and a third place winner will be selected from those eligible entries received from non-Nebraska residents. Sponsors’ decisions are final in all matters relating to the drawing and the Sweepstakes.

**4. Odds:** The odds of winning depend upon the total number of eligible entries received.

**5. Prizes:** The four 1st place winners (the “First Place Winners”) will each receive \$2,000 in the form of a contribution to a NEST account established for the benefit of each First Place Winner. In addition, the three First Place Winners who reside in the State of Nebraska will each receive 4 complimentary tickets to the Why I Want to Go to College event held during the Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park on May 3, 2026, with the Nebraska State Treasurer. The four 2nd place winners (the “Second Place Winners”) will each receive \$1,000 in the form of a contribution to a NEST account established for the benefit of each Second Place Winner and the three Second Place Winners who reside in the State of Nebraska will each receive 4 complimentary tickets to the Why I Want to Go to College event held during the Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park on May 3, 2026, with the Nebraska State Treasurer. The four 3rd place winners (the “Third Place Winners”, and collectively with the First Place Winners and the Second Place Winners, the “Winners”) will each receive \$500 in the form of a contribution to a NEST account established for the benefit of each Third Place Winner and the three Third Place Winners who reside in the State of Nebraska will each receive 4 complimentary tickets to the Why I Want to Go to College event held during the Omaha Storm Chasers game at Werner Park on May 3, 2026, with the Nebraska State Treasurer (collectively the “Prizes”).

**6. Prize Restrictions.** In order for a Winner to be eligible to receive his/her contribution Prize, the Winner’s parent/guardian must (i) already have established an existing NEST account for the benefit of the Winner, or (ii) open a new NEST account for the benefit of the Winner. The parent/guardian of the Winner will be the owner of the account (“Account Owner”). The Program Manager will disburse the Prize funds only when the Account Owner provides the Program Manager with NEST account information. The Account Owner will be bound by all rules and obligations relating to ownership of the account. Any disbursement of funds may only be used for tuition and fees associated with qualified higher education expenses (other than room and board) at an eligible educational institution. The Account Owner will have ownership rights, title, interest, and control over the account established for the Winner. Access to the account shall be limited to the Account Owner who will administer the account for the benefit of the Winner. All accounts held in NEST for the Winner, including any account established under the Sweepstakes, will be aggregated for purposes of NEST’s maximum account balance limit. All questions regarding NEST and the Winner’s account should be directed to the Program Manager at the address listed below. Omaha Storm Chasers tickets are subject to availability. Sponsors are not responsible for transportation to and from Werner Park, delays or cancellations due to weather or other

events. The game for which the Storm Chaser tickets are provided may be moved or cancelled at any time. If such game is moved or cancelled, Winners may not receive a substitute ticket or other prize. Prizes are non-transferable, are subject to the rules and regulations applicable to NEST accounts, the Omaha Storm Chasers, and Werner Park and cannot be exchanged or substituted for another Prize. The Prizes may be considered income to the recipient, and any taxes resulting from the receipt of the Prizes are the responsibility of the recipient. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of accepting the Prizes.

**7. Winner Notification:** Each Winner will be notified by telephone or U.S. mail. A Winner need not be present at the time of the drawing or when the winners are announced to win. Allow 3-4 weeks following the date of the drawing for notification regarding the Prizes. In the event the Winner does not have an existing NEST account, the parent/guardian will be required to provide all documentation necessary to open a NEST account (including name, address, Social Security number, date of birth and other identifying information for the designated Winner) before Winner is entitled to a Prize. All potential Winners are subject to eligibility verification by the Sponsors and Program Manager. An Entrant is not a Winner and not entitled to a Prize unless, and until, the Entrant’s eligibility has been verified, an existing NEST account for the Winner has been verified or a new NEST account has been opened and the Entrant has been notified that verification is complete. A Winner, or their legal parent or guardian may need to sign a form acknowledging eligibility and conformance with the Official Rules. The Prizes may be awarded to an alternate winner (selected from among remaining eligible entries) if (i) a Winner is not compliant with the Official Rules; (ii) an existing NEST account for the Winner cannot be verified and new NEST account documentation is not returned in good order within 14 days after mailing to Winner; (iii) a Winner is not eligible to open a NEST account; (iv) the Prize notification letter is returned as undeliverable; or (v) three good faith attempts to contact the Winner live by telephone are unsuccessful (no messages will be left). No more than the stated number of Prizes will be made. In the event that production, technical, seeding, programming, or any other reasons cause more than the stated number of Prizes, as set forth in the Official Rules, to be available and/or claimed, the Sponsors reserve the right to award only the stated number of Prizes among all legitimate, un-awarded, eligible Sweepstakes claims.

**8. Release:** Each Entrant, or their legal parent or guardian on their behalf, agrees, except where prohibited by law, to release and discharge, hold harmless and indemnify Releasees and all others associated with the development and execution of this Sweepstakes, from any and all tax liability that may be imposed or associated with receipt or use of the Prizes, and from and against any and all claims, actions, proceedings, and liability for any damages, expenses, fees, injury, or losses sustained in connection with the Sweepstakes or acceptance, possession, use, misuse or nonuse of a Prize.

**9. Publicity:** Except where prohibited by law, by entering the Sweepstakes, or by winning, Entrants, or their legal parents or guardians on their behalf, grant to Sponsors and Program Manager and their respective designees the right to publicize the Entrant’s name, photograph, image, likeness, voice, statements, submission and certain biographical information in all manner and media, worldwide and in perpetuity, for advertising, trade and promotion purposes, worldwide and in perpetuity, in any and all forms of media, now known or hereafter devised (including, without limitation, the Internet), without additional compensation, and without opportunity for review. Parents/guardians may be required to sign a release.

**10. Limitations of Liability:** By entering the Sweepstakes, Entrants, and their legal parents and guardians, hereby agree that Releasees are not responsible for technical, computer, mechanical, printing, typographical, human or other errors relating to, or in connection with the Sweepstakes, including, without limitation, errors which may occur in connection with the administration of the Sweepstakes, the processing of entries, the announcement of the Prizes or in any Sweepstakes-related materials; or for stolen, lost, late, misdirected, damaged, incomplete, inaccurate, undelivered, delayed, or illegible or postage due entries or mail; or for electronic, computer, or telephonic malfunction or error, failure to enter into the processing system, or are processed, reported, or transmitted late or incorrectly, or are lost for any reason, including computer, telephone, paper transfer, or human or other error. If, in Sponsors’ opinion, there is any suspected or actual evidence of tampering with any portion of the Sweepstakes, Sponsors, at their sole discretion, reserve the right to disqualify any individual who tampers with the Sweepstakes, and/or void any entries submitted fraudulently, to modify or suspend the Sweepstakes, or to terminate the Sweepstakes and conduct a random drawing to award the Prizes using all eligible, non-suspect entries received as of the termination date. As a condition of entering the Sweepstakes, Entrants agree that: (i) under no circumstances will Entrants be permitted to obtain awards for, and Entrants hereby waive all rights to claim, punitive, incidental, consequential, or any other damages, other than for actual out-of-pocket expenses; (ii) all causes of action arising out of or connected with this Sweepstakes or the Prizes awarded, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action; and (iii) any and all claims, judgments, and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred and, in no event, shall Entrant be entitled to receive attorneys’ fees or other legal costs. Sponsors reserve the right to modify Prize award procedures. The Sweepstakes and Official Rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska, without regard to its principles of conflicts of law and jurisdiction, and venue shall be solely within the State of Nebraska.

**11. Entrants’ Personal Information:** Information collected from Entrants will be maintained by the Sponsors and Program Manager and their respective representatives in accordance with applicable federal and state consumer privacy laws, rules, and regulations.

**12. Copy of the Official Rules/List of Winners:** For a copy of the Official Rules or a list of Winners’ names (available after, on or about May 4, 2026), send your request, and a separate self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office, P.O. Box 94788, Lincoln, NE 68509-4788.

**13. Program Manager:** Union Bank & Trust, 1248 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.