**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST**

**DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND RULES & INFORMATION SHEET**

Each year, the National American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for grade school students (grades 3 – 12). However, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland, Inc participates in the Essay Contest for grades 3 – 8 and these grades are divided into three Classes (groups) with the respective Word Requirement.

***Theme: “How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?”***

**DATES OF CONTEST:** November 1, 2016 through February 1, 2017

**ELIGIBILITY:** Contest limited to students in grades 3 – 8. ***Note word requirement for each Class.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class (Group)** | **Grade Level** | **Word Requirement** |
| I | 3 and 4 | 150 – 250 |
| II | 5 and 6 | 250 – 300 |
| III | 7 and 8 | 350 - 400 |

**FORM:** Essay may be neatly handwritten or typed and must conform to the word limit for the student’s Class. ***IMPORTANT: The student’s signature must be at the end of the essay.***

**REQUIREMENTS:** There is a National American Legion Auxiliary cover sheet (first page of essay) that includes Classes I – V for Grades 3 – 12. This cover sheet must be completed in its entirety, including the teacher’s name and signature.

***IMPORTANT: Do not modify the National cover sheet!***

**JUDGING:** A panel of judges who are not members of the American Legion Auxiliary will judge entries. The decision of the judges shall be final.

**DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND PRIZES:** Three prizes shall be awarded in each

Department Contest (Class I, Class II and Class III) Prizes shall be cash gifts with essay medals as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First Place | $200.00 | Essay Medal | Class I, II, III |
| Second Place | $100.00 | Essay Medal | Class I, II, III |
| Third Place | $ 75.00 | Essay Medal | Class I, II, III |

*Place the essays in an envelope, seal and identify on the outside the name of the school and submit to the school office. Children and youth leaders please do the same, sealed envelope with name.*

**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT REPRESENTATIVE SHALL PICK UP ESSAYS IMMEDIATELY AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2017.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Unit Representative** |  | Kay Seidenspinner | **Phone #:** | 443-624-0432 |
| **Email:** |  | KaySeidenspinner@yahoo.com | **Unit Name (#) District:** | Arick L. Lore Unit # 274 Southern Maryland |

**NOTES:** Give FYI sheet to schools. Add info if your Unit or District also awards prizes