



2023-2024

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Dear School Principal and/or Teacher,

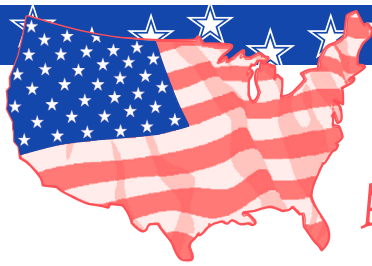
Promoting Americanism in our local communities, especially with children, is one of the focal points of Elkdom. The Michigan Elks Association encourages students in grades 5th through 8th to thoughtfully consider American values and appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship through this essay contest.

This year our theme for the essay is **“What the Bill of Rights Means to Me”**. We encourage every school to incorporate this essay into their curriculum or add it in as an extra credit project to help promote Americanism.

There are four (4) divisions in this contest: 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades. There are four levels of selection (lodge, district, state and national). At each level, three (3) essays from each division are chosen to go to the next level. Lodges and Districts will supply certificates and possibly a small monetary prize for 1st place (this is dependent on each individual lodge and district). At the state level 1st place will receive \$75 and a plaque, 2nd place will receive \$50 and a plaque and 3rd place will receive a plaque. **At the national level, the division winners will receive \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd place and \$250 for 3rd place.**

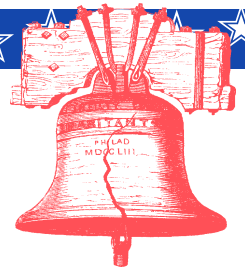
We hope that your school decides to accept this worthwhile project for your school and help the children learn more about how great our country is to live in. Your school should have received a postcard in September with all of this information on it along with the local Lodge and Americanism chairman contact info that you are connected with. If you need any of that information again or should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via email at: americanism@mielks.org.

Jason Manke, Americanism Chairman
Michigan Elks Association



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
The United States of America



THEME:

“What the Bill of Rights Means to Me”

RULES:

1. At the time of the contest, eligible participants must be students enrolled in one of these four divisions: Division I - 5th grade; Division II - 6th grade; Division III - 7th grade; or Division IV - 8th grade.
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also Essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest to the address of the entrant.
5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the Essay entry form.

AWARDS:

National Level: Plaques will be awarded by Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for national winning essays in Divisions I, II, III and IV. Monetary awards will be disbursed for each grade level for 1st place - \$1,000, 2nd place - \$500, 3rd Place - \$250. Winners are announced at Grand Lodge Session in Austin, TX, June 30-July 3, 2024.

State Level: Plaques will be awarded by Michigan Elks Association for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for state winning essays in Divisions I, II, III and IV. Monetary awards: 1st - \$75, 2nd - \$50. Winners are announced on March 31, 2024.

District & Local Levels: decided individually by those lodges.

ENTRY DATE:

Essay should be submitted to local Elks Lodge on/before December 15, 2023.

The Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be completed for each level of competition and remain attached to the Essay.

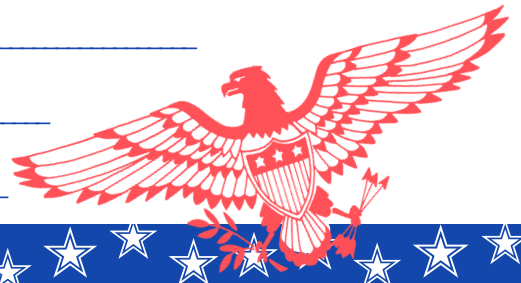
Sponsoring Elks Lodge: _____ No. _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone No. _____

E-mail: _____





2023-2024 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST COVER SHEET

(MUST be attached to each Essay)



“What the Bill of Rights Means to Me”

Section 1 — to be filled out by student

(Circle or Highlight One Grade)

•Division I: 5th Grade

•Division II: 6th Grade

•Division III: 7th Grade

•Division IV: 8th Grade

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____

Student's Name _____ Male Female Age _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

(used only to contact the winners)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Send to Local Lodge no later than December 15, 2023.

Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ Phone Number (_____) _____

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 31, 2024 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 3 — to be filled out by District Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 28, 2024 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ State _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the Contest Administrator, Gwendolyn B. Parker, by March 31, 2024.