GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER
Chairman

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July 2016

2016-2017 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

"Why Is It Important to Vote?"

I am pleased to announce that Members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee have selected the theme, ***"Why Is It Important to Vote,"*** for the 2016-2017 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno, NV in July 2017. This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

Nationally, first-place winners in each division will receive a bronze plaque. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also may offer different types of awards to their winners.

Now is the time for all Lodges to contact their local school districts and provide them with the new topic. Ask them to add the essay contest to their fall curriculum. The same material accompanying this letter may also be found by clicking on "Downloads" at http://www.Elks.Org/grandlodge/fraternal/.

This contest is most important because it involves school children in your area, showing them Americanism at its best. The contest also demonstrates that Members of your Lodge are proud to be Americans, proud to be Elks and proud to participate in the Americanism programs of Grand Lodge. Your Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to serving and assisting you as we all show pride in America.

May God continue to bless America. God bless the Elks and may God bless each of you.

Douglas A. Schiefer, *Chairman*
Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee

2016-2017 Americanism Essay Contest
Cover Sheet

(MUST be attached to each Essay)

"Why Is It Important to Vote?"

Section 1 — to be filled out by student

Division I: 5th or 6th Grade *(Circle One)* **Division II: 7th or 8th Grade**

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

Student's Name _____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Age ____ Grade ____ Parent's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____
(used only to contact the winners)

Send to Local Lodge no later than December 16, 2016.

Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman

Chairman's Name _____

Chairman's Home Phone Number (_____) _____

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 30, 2017 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 Home Phone Number (_____) _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 28, 2017 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

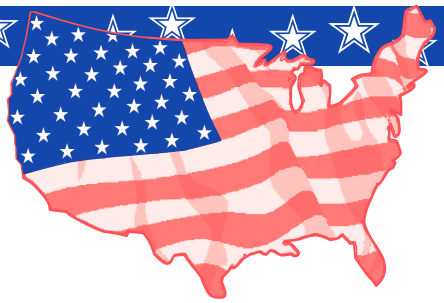
Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman

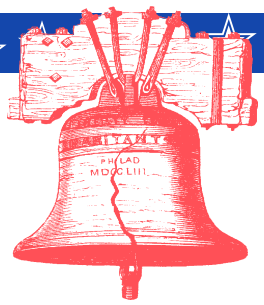
Chairman's Name _____ State _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Home Phone Number (_____) _____

Select the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the Contest Administrator, Robert E. Drisko, by March 31, 2017.





"Why Is It Important to Vote?"

Essay Contest

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

RULES:

1. Eligible participants must be Students enrolled in the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade at the time of the contest.
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.

AWARDS:

Plaques will be awarded by the Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place for national winning essays in Division I and Division II. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno, Nevada, July 16-19, 2017.

ENTRY DATE:

Essay should be submitted to local Elks Lodge on/before December 16, 2016.

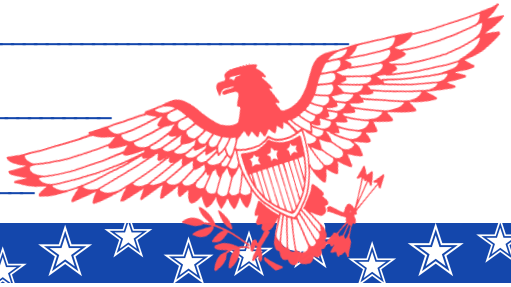
The Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be completed for each level of competition and remain attached to the Essay.

Sponsoring Elks Lodge:_____ No._____

Address:_____

Contact Person:_____

Phone No._____



2016-2017
Americanism Essay Contest

Essay Theme: *"Why Is It Important to Vote?"*

1. Eligible participants must be a student enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the normal 2016-17 school year, preceding June 30, 2017. **Deadline: Must be submitted to Local Lodge by December 16, 2016.**
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 administering the contest at his or her school or, if unknown, to Lodge nearest to home address of entrant.
5. Entrant must be identified on essay by name, home address, grade, school attended and sponsoring Lodge. (Lodge may enter Lodge information on essay.)
6. Judging criteria:
   Originality: Avoid the use of trite or worn out words and phrases — 30 points
   Development of theme: Stay focused on ideas and thoughts. Don't ramble — 40 points
   Mechanics and neatness: Use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation — 30 points

   There are two divisions for judging essays:
   Division 1 (combined fifth and sixth grades)
   Division 2 (combined seventh and eighth grades)

PROCEDURES FOR LODGE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select from submitted entries the top three essays from each division and send the six essays to the District Americanism Chairman by Jan. 30, 2017, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the top three essays in each division from entries submitted by Local Lodges and send the six essays to the State Americanism Chairman by Feb. 28, 2017, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR STATE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the first-, second- and third-place winners for the state from entries submitted by the District Chairman. In addition, State Chairman forwards the first-place winners from each division to the Grand Lodge Essay Contest Administrator. *(Must be postmarked by March 31, 2017.)*

SEND TO: *Essay Contest Administrator* **Robert E. Drisko, Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, 528 Togus Road, Chelsea, ME 04330-1271.**

Plaques for first-, second-, and third-place winning essays in Divisions I and II will be presented to the home Lodge of the winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno, Nevada, July 16-19, 2017.