

2010 MD 39 Patriotism Essay Contest Club Information

Who is your hero? Is it a favorite athlete or music star? Is it a firefighter or police officer or a teacher? It could be a national leader past or present, a soldier, a veteran, your neighbor, or friend. Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, from all walks of life. What makes them special? And what does being a hero mean? The 2010 Lions Patriotism Essay Contest takes a look at our heroes with this year's topic: "Who is My American Hero and Why?"

The essay contest is open to elementary school students in grades 1-6 within the boundaries of Multi-District 39. Essays will be judged and prizes awarded at each of the 6 grade levels. The contest begins at the local club level. Winners chosen at the club level advance to the District 39W or 39E contest and are judged by the District Governors or their designees. Winners of each District contest advance to the finals where one winner for each grade will be selected by the Council Chair or designee with awards to be presented at the MD 39 Convention in Sun Valley.

Club Guidelines

1. Decide to participate in the Patriotism Essay Contest. Appoint a committee.
2. Decide how many schools and how many grades or classes the club would like to have participate.
3. Decide what prizes or certificates the club will award.
4. Contact the school principal to obtain permission to sponsor the contest.
5. Schedule an appointment to visit the school to present the contest to the teachers and students, if possible. Lions can explain the contest rules and prizes, talk about patriotism, and answer questions from the students and/or teachers. Consider giving the students flag pins or flag key chains to remind them about patriotism and the contest.
6. Make copies of the rules and cover sheets for each student and distribute.
7. Arrange to pick up copies of the completed essays on Friday, March 5.
8. Select one winner for each grade level and submit those essays to the District chairperson by Friday, March 19.
9. The District Governor or his or her designee will select one winner for each grade level and submit those essays to the MD 39 chairperson by Friday, April 2.
10. Winners at the Multi District level will be announced no later than Monday, April 12.
11. Multi District winners at each grade level are requested to be present in Sun Valley at the MD-39 Lions Convention, Saturday, May 15, to read their essays.
12. Each Lions Club that sponsors a winner should invite the winner and his or her parents to attend the Saturday Noon Luncheon in Sun Valley and pay for their meal. Please let the Sun Valley Convention Committee know how many additional meals are needed if your club sponsors a winner.
13. Prizes will be awarded at the MD level. There will be one winner at each grade level (1-6). Each winner will receive a savings bond and a trophy. Parents of each winner will receive a gift card to help pay traveling expenses.

2010 Lions Patriotism Essay Contest Teacher Information

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Welcome to the 2010 Patriotism Essay Contest! We hope that your classroom will join us in celebrating patriotism and the American Hero!

The Lions Patriotism Essay Contest is sponsored every year in schools in across Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon by the local Lions Clubs. Children in grades 1-6 are eligible to participate and winners are chosen at each grade level. The winners chosen in the schools advance to the next level of competition where they compete against children from other schools in the Lions Clubs Districts of 39E and 39W. District 39E is made up of Lions Clubs in the Southeastern part of Idaho, and District 39W is made up of clubs in Southwestern Idaho and Eastern Oregon. Finally, the winners of 39E and 39W compete for the top prize. This year's overall winners will be announced no later than Monday, April 12.

Prizes are typically awarded to grade level winners at each level. Each overall winner will receive a savings bond and a trophy. The six winners (one for each grade level) are invited to attend the noon luncheon at the Lions annual District Convention in Sun Valley on May 15, where they will read their essays and receive their prizes. Parents will be given a gift card to help pay for travel expenses.

If you have any questions about the contest, contact your local Lions Club.