

The meaning of Courage today

PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD ESSAY CHALLENGE OFFICIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

RULES

The President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge is open to all 9th through 12th grade students in West Michigan. To enter, write a 500 – 750 word essay describing the meaning of courage today. Limit one entry per student, per contest. All essays must be submitted on white, 8 1/2" x 11" paper with one-inch margins on each side. Essays must be single-sided and double-spaced, using black or dark blue ink. Typewritten entries must use a 10-point or larger font. Judges will determine legibility of fonts and hand written entries. **A title page is required for each entry.** It must include student name, address, phone, e-mail, grade, school, teacher, school address and school phone. Essays must be stapled in the top left corner. No covers or binders allowed.

Sponsors reserve the right to interpret the contest rules and to make decisions concerning the awards in situations not covered by these rules.

Participation in the contest constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of all official rules and guidelines, including eligibility requirements.

PROCESS

Drop off, or mail, completed entry to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Attn: Barbara McGregor, 303 Pearl St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353. All entries must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2009, or hand delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. November 1, 2009. No late entries will be accepted.

Essays will be reviewed by a panel of judges comprised of civic, education, and/or business leaders. To help ensure objectivity in the review and selection process, each essay will be assigned a random number that will correspond with the name on the individual submission. Winners will be notified no later than January 18, 2010.

Participating sponsors are not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, illegible, or incomplete essays, or essays that do not follow all rules and guidelines.

All entries become the property of The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum and will not be returned.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Winners will be selected based on quality of narrative and originality of the essay, as well as on proper use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. Judges will select the top three entries. Judges also reserve the right to select honorable mention recipients. Decisions of the judges are final.

ELIGIBILITY

No purchase necessary to enter. Must be a U.S. resident to enter. Employees / agents of the sponsors, and members of their households, are not eligible. By participating, each contestant agrees to comply with these rules and further agrees to accept the decision of the judges as final and binding. Contestants agree that if they are chosen as a winner, participating sponsors may use their name, picture, and/or their winning entry for editorial, publicity, and advertising purposes without further compensation, except where prohibited.

Parents or guardians of the finalists will be required to sign and submit a consent form and publicity/liability release as a condition of a child's participation in this contest.

Winners may be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility and a Liability/Publicity release which must be signed and returned or an alternate winner will be selected.

PRIZES

The first place winner will receive a \$2,000.00 United States Savings Bond. Second place will receive a \$1,500 United States Savings Bond, and third place a \$1,000 United States Savings Bond. If a minor wins, prize may be awarded to his or her parent or legal guardian. Prizes are non-transferable, and may not be exchanged. Prize substitutions

GENERAL

The President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge is subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited. For winners' names, send a SASE to: President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge – Winners, The Grand Rapids Press, c/o Marketing, 155 Michigan St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, after 1/18/2010.