

Monmouth County Historical Commission

ESSAY CONTEST

The Monmouth County Historical Commission is pleased to announce an essay contest to promote historic preservation and history. Alternate themes are offered this year.

CONTEST THEMES:

- 1) WRITE ABOUT A MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL PLACE THAT YOU HAVE VISITED AND HOW THAT PLACE HELPED YOU TO APPRECIATE OUR HISTORY.
- OR**
- 2) WRITE ABOUT AN EVENT THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY (YOUR GRANDPARENTS' GENERATION OR EARLIER) AND TELL WHY.

ELIGIBILITY & RULES

1. Entry is open to all Monmouth County fifth grade students.
2. Depict the above theme in **about 300 words** (see space restriction below), describing the place or family event and how it affects your appreciation for Monmouth's history or family history.
3. Students must write legibly, print in ink or type on **ONE SIDE OF 8^{1/2} X 11" PAPER ONLY**. ENTRIES SUBMITTED ON MORE THAN ONE PAGE MAY LOSE ELIGIBILITY. The **back** of the front page must contain the student's name and age, school address, school telephone number and teacher's name. **Do not place the student's name on the front page.** The contest is judged in anonymity. Please do not use a cover sheet. **All submissions should include a title header about the subject matter.**

Teachers: Please enclose a typed list of participating students' names to prevent misspelled certificates. If essays are done as a class project, they should be submitted by the school as a class project.

4. **DEADLINE - ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 2, 2019.**
5. Mail Entries to: MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HALL OF RECORDS ANNEX, 2ND FLOOR
1 EAST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728
6. All entries will become the property of the Monmouth County Historical Commission. Entries will not be returned.
7. Places need not be major historical sites, but should have some importance to history.
8. **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING – WRITING SKILL, ACCURACY AND NEATNESS.** Judges for the contest will be members of the Monmouth County Historical Commission.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented as follows:
1ST PLACE - \$100 Book Store Gift Card
2ND PLACE - \$75 Book Store Gift Card
3RD PLACE - \$50 Book Store Gift Card

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.
Winners will be notified by early May 2020 with a request for permission to use the student's name and image in contest press releases.

October 16, 2019

Dear Fifth Grade Teacher:

The Monmouth County Historical Commission is pleased to announce its **28th ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST**. Enclosed is a list of rules and guidelines for the contest. If you have any questions or would like clarification, please contact John Fabiano at (732) 431-7460, Ext. 7413, preferably on Monday or Wednesday, or by email at John.Fabiano@co.monmouth.nj.us.

While the County has long encouraged the visitation of a historic site as an essay topic, we continue to include the option to write about a family's history because we believe making history personal helps increase interest.

The excitement of winning brings joy to the families, teachers, and of course the students. However, as one teacher pointed out, "we enter for the satisfaction of participating rather than to win prizes." We hope more students will have the opportunity to share the satisfaction of participating and if chance permits, the joy of winning. The Commission will present book store gift cards to the top three essay winners.

The Commission thanks you in advance for your cooperation in making this Essay Contest a part of your curriculum. We look forward to reading your students' essays.

Sincerely,

Glenn Cashion

Chairperson, Education Committee

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fifth Grade Faculty

FROM: John Fabiano, Executive Director

RE: Essay Competition

DATE: October 16, 2019

Considering the number of mandated insertions in the Social Studies curricula over the span of primary and secondary education, how often will a student get an opportunity to reflect on their own surroundings? The Historical Commission knows that Monmouth County is a historical place. We encourage visitation of historic sites and present Fifth Graders with an opportunity to write about their experience visiting one. We hope you react similarly to the importance of our County's history by using the Essay Contest as a class project.

There are so many historic sites in our midst, not only the major ones such as Sandy Hook, Twin Lights, Monmouth Battlefield, Longstreet Farm and Walnford, but lesser-known places in your towns or even neighborhoods. Examples include an old building adapted for re-use or a notable person's statue or historic monument? A historic place could be a place of business, or even an old farm that is not regularly visited by the public. The "hidden" historic site could be a place that most do not know about. Students should be creative, since originality counts. The discussion should be informative as well as fun.

We find that the recent optional family history topic is popular. Participation on the two topics runs about half and half. Students often write very moving accounts about their own families' experiences.

We hope these suggestions help stimulate interest in our County's proud history. Do you have any ideas which may do the same? Please feel free to send me an e-mail at John.Fabiano@co.monmouth.nj.us and share your thoughts.

Thank you for your interest.