



ELBERT COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN PATRIOTIC ESSAY CONTEST 2024

Dear Teachers and Students,

This essay contest is designed to encourage students to think about the privileges and responsibilities of being an American and to seek answers within our founding documents as well as demonstrate patriotism and love for country.

This year's Essay topic for Middle School and High School is:

Ronald Reagan, America's 40th President, loved America and embodied the importance of freedom. Not just for America but also all nations across the world. He is famously quoted as saying "Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom, and then lost it, have never known it again."

Q. As a new generation of young Americans, what will you do to preserve American freedom and protect it for years to come? How will you encourage your fellow peers to do the same? Why is it as important today as it was at the time of our country's founding?

Also consider incorporating personal experiences, current events in our nation, or other nations around the world to support your answers.

The DEADLINE for submitting your essay is Monday, March 25, 2024, 11:59PM.

Please e-mail your essay to Teri Guthrie at: EssayContest@ElbertCountyRepublicanWomen.com
LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The Essay Awards Ceremony will be on April 24, 2024 at Legacy Academy in Elizabeth, 6:30PM. We invite all supporters, family and friends to join us beforehand for refreshments and a meet/mingle 6:00PM.

CASH PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIPS for HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1st \$500.00 ECRW + \$1,000 Rathbun + \$500 The Elbert County Partnership + \$200 Mary Frangis Memorial

2nd \$100.00 ECRW + \$100 Mary Frangis Memorial

3rd \$ 75.00 ECRW + \$100 Mary Frangis Memorial

4th \$ 50.00 ECRW + \$100 Mary Frangis Memorial

High School Seniors Only: Future Freedom Foundation \$1,500 for Senior Grads

CASH PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIPS for MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

1st \$250.00 ECRW + \$200 Mary Frangis Memorial

2nd \$100.00 ECRW + \$100 Mary Frangis Memorial

3rd \$ 75.00 ECRW + \$100 Mary Frangis Memorial

4th \$ 50.00 ECRW + \$100 Mary Frangis Memorial

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED FOR MOST PATRIOTIC ESSAY

1ST \$500 Frank Reeves Memorial

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER

First place winners from BOTH High School and Middle School contests will be recognized at the Elbert County Republican Annual Lincoln Day Dinner. This year's date is June 15, 2024 @ 6:00PM. The winners and their parents will be the guests of the Elbert County Republican Women and the Elbert County Central Committee. Tickets for additional family members can be purchased on the Elbert County Republican website: <https://www.elbertcountyrepublicans.com/>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 25, 2024 11:59PM via email. Please submit with provided cover page.

AWARDS CEREMONY: April 24, 2024, 6:30PM to 8:30PM, Legacy Academy in Elizabeth. Refreshments served at 6:00PM.

ELIGIBILITY: Students enrolled in Middle School (6th-8th grades) and High School (9th-12th grades) and students schooled at home in Middle and High School curriculum.

By entering this contest, the students and their parents/guardians are giving permission to have their photos taken and the essays published in local newspapers and media.

FORMAT

Length: 500 to 1000 words. Accurate, concise, well-organized writing is preferred over convoluted lengthier essays.

Title: Give your essay an original title and put that title on each page of your essay. **Extra points will be awarded for an artistic title page illustrating.*

Double space your essay. Number pages in the upper right-hand corner. **Do not put your name on the essay** pages so that we can judge each essay anonymously. (We will assign a number to each essay for judging.) **Remember to scan the completed Cover Sheet along with the essay.**

JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS

Content -- The information in your essay, its meaning and how it communicates your ideas. You can include experiences, facts, comparisons, or explanations to give meaning to the content of your essay.

Patriotism -- Demonstrating American patriotism, and love of country within your essay, and concepts that make you proud to be an American. (\$500 Frank Reeves Scholarship presented for most patriotic essay).

Originality/Individuality -- Your own vision of and ideas about YOUR TOPIC. Be creative by telling a story or explaining an idea in terms of your own experience or research.

Clarity -- Logical organization, precise word choice, simplicity of language. Hint: read your essay aloud to make sure ideas and words flow logically when read aloud.

Grammar -- Spelling, sentence structure, and organizational flow are extremely important.

AI Tech – Not Permitted! We will be monitoring for essays that appear to have included the new technology. Essayists will only do themselves a disservice by not conducting their own research and forming their own critical thoughts and opinions.

SOME FINAL GUIDELINES

Be sure to attribute quotations or ideas from other sources to the original author. Make your writing creative and individual by illustrating and describing ideas. You can tell a story, prove a point, research, or visualize an idea. Use a format that you are comfortable using in your writing. Keep in mind that journalists write stories that answer these 5 questions: "How?", "When?", "What?", "Where?", and "Why?". We look forward to reading your essay!

Please e-mail your essay and cover page to ECRW Essay Chairwoman, Teri Guthrie at:
essaycontest@elbertcountyrepublicanwomen.com.

If you do NOT get an email acknowledging receipt of your emailed essay, call Teri Guthrie at 303-419-8374.

CASH PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY:

\$1200.00 ELBERT COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN
<https://www.elbertcountyrepublicanwomen.com/index.html>

\$1000.00 MARY RATHBUN SCHOLARSHIP DONATED BY MR. LARRY DURNER

\$1500.00 FUTURE FREEDOM FOUNDATION DONATED BY ELBERT COUNTY REPUBLICANS https://www.elbertcountyrepublicans.com/our_partners

\$1000.00 MARY FRANGIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATED BY MRS. MARY STEEN

\$ 500.00 FRANK REEVES MEMORIAL MOST PATRIOTIC DONATED BY MRS. DENISE REEVES

\$ 500.00 ELBERT COUNTY PARTNERSHIP DONATED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD
<https://elbertcountypartnership.com/>

COVER SHEET FOR YOUR 2024 PATRIOTIC ESSAY

We need to be able to read your name, mailing address, phone number and email address so we can communicate with you and send you an invitation to the awards ceremony and see that you receive awards. Email your essay to: EssayContest@ElbertCountyRepublicanWomen.com

The topic for your essay is:

Q. As a new generation of young Americans, what will you do to preserve American freedom and protect it for years to come? How will you encourage your fellow peers to do the same? Why is it as important today as it was at the time of our country's founding?

ESSAY TITLE: _____

ESSAY WORD COUNT: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR SCHOOL: _____
(If home schooled, enter "HOME SCHOOL")

YOUR GRADE: _____

If a teacher told you about the contest,
TEACHER'S NAME _____

YOUR PARENT OR
GUARDIAN'S NAME(S) _____

PARENT or GUARDIAN'S PHONE NUMBER: _____

YOUR MAILING ADDRESS: _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please make sure the information you give is legible so we can contact you. Thank you and good luck!

Sponsored by the **ELBERT COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN**
Contest Chairwoman: Teri Guthrie