

## ESSAY CONTEST RULES

The Native Sons of the Golden West undertook the sponsorship of a fourth-grade contest in 1994. The subject matter for this Contest is California History and the fourth grade was selected because this is the year when students first learn about California History. The contest initially had six school districts and over the past 28 years has grown until now we have as many as 20 Districts participating, with several hundred essays submitted each year.

A winning student is selected from each school district and that student will receive \$100.00 along with a suitably engraved plaque. In addition, the teacher of the winning student receives a \$100.00 check to use in his or her classroom.

All of the winning essays are then judged at our Grand Parlor (convention) in May, and an overall winner is selected. That student's essay, along with a photograph is displayed for one year at the Native Sons Museum in Columbia State Park.

Additionally, the student's name and school are placed on the perpetual plaque displayed at the museum and the student will receive an additional \$100.00 check.

The subject matter for each essay is left up to the student and/or teacher, however it must be something pertaining to the History of California.

The Native Sons of the Golden West encourage all fourth-grade students to participate in our contest. Your district chairman has contacted your school and distributed the information. It is now up to you, the fourth-grade teacher to have your students participate and write their essays. Who knows, you might have a winning student!

## CONTEST RULES AND PRIZES

The contest rules and prizes are as follows:

1. The contest will be open to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in selected school districts throughout the state of California
2. The subject matter for the essay contest will be left up to the discretion of the teacher and/or the student, however it must pertain to the history of California.
3. **Essays must be 250 words or less.** They may be handwritten, printed, typed or computer printed but must be legible.

A. Each student submitting an essay must have their full name, the name of their school and their teacher's name in the upper left-hand corner of the essay

B. Essays must be of an original concept and must be in the student's own words and thoughts

4. All essays must be submitted to the Native Sons of the Golden West District Chairman by **April 8, 2024**. They will then be judged and the winning essay from each District will be announced at the Native Sons of the Golden West Grand Parlor on **Monday, May 20, 2024**. An overall winner will be selected from all the winners and will be announced later that same week.

5. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

A. A check in the amount of \$100.00 along with a suitably engraved commemorative plaque will be awarded to each winning student.

B. A \$100.00 check will be presented to the teacher of each winning student. This money is to be used in the teacher's classroom.

C. An overall winner will be selected from all the district winners and the name of that student will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque which is on display at the Native Sons Museum in the Columbia State Park.

In addition, a photo of the winning student along with a copy of the essay will be displayed at the museum for one year.

D. Every participating student will receive a certificate of participation in the contest.

6. All essays will be judged by an independent committee. No member of the judge's panel will have any connection with the school district that they are judging; however every effort will be made to use elementary school teachers or retired teachers as judges.

## RULES FOR THE JUDGES

Essays will be judged as follows:

	<u>Maximum</u>
Neatness and Clarity	25 points
Grammar	25 Points
Historical Content	50 Points

## POSSIBLE ESSAY TOPICS

1. Our Spanish Heritage
2. Early Explorers
3. The California Indians
4. This Missions of California
5. California Mountain Men
6. Father Junipero Serra
7. The California Gold Rush
8. Arts in California
9. California Earthquakes
10. John Muir

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All Parlors of the Native Sons of the Golden West are encouraged to become involved in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest.

Contact your Local Chairman

# NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ESSAY CONTEST



MAY 2024

George Adams  
GRAND PRESIDENT