

2023-2024 NATIVE SONS 4TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

CONTEST RULES AND PRIZES

1. The contest is open to all 4th grade students in selected school districts throughout California.
 - A. There will be approximately 20 School Districts participating in this year's contest.
 - B. Private and Parochial schools located within the geographic area of a participating school districts are also invited to participate.
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. A list of possible topics is listed at the end of this letter.
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. Reports may be entered in the contest however; they will not be considered in the competition.
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 school district winning student.
 - B. A \$100.00 check will be presented to the teacher of the 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 the student will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque which is displayed 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. The student will receive an additional \$100.00.
 - D. Every participating student will receive a certificate of appreciation 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.

POSSIBLE ESSAY TOPICS

1. Our Spanish Heritage
2. Early Explorers
3. The California Indians
4. The 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

Note: Other topics pertaining to the history of the State of California will also be considered.