



Veterans Day Essay Contest 2021
Sponsored by The Historical Society of Orange Park P.O. Box 08,
Orange Park, FL 32067 Email: info@ophistory.org



I. Contest Label Form and Publicity Release Form: **All entries must be accompanied by a fully completed "Publicity Release Form."** One overall contest label form should be completed for each school sending bulk entries.

II. Contest Theme: The theme for the Essay Contest is to explain the importance of celebrating Veterans and Veterans Day. Each Essay Contest student, using his or her own words and creativity, will tell a personal story about how veterans have made an impact in their life, neighborhood, or town. They should clearly explain why they think veterans should be honored.

The 2021 topic for all three grade level competitions: *Why Do We Honor Veterans?*

III. Contest Deadline: All essay entries must be received by September 24, 2021. The Grand Prize winners will be notified by October 28, 2021. Entries not meeting deadlines will be disqualified.

IV. Contest Grade Categories and Topics: The contests will be evaluated in the following grade-related categories:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Word limits:</u>	<u>Prize Offered:</u>
4th –6th	300 -500	\$50
7th –8th	400-700	\$75
9th -12th	500-1000	\$100

V. Essay Specifications: Essay entries can be electronically written (Word or Docs) or handwritten neatly on white 8½" X 11" lined paper and must be in English. **Please have students write on one side of the paper only. Hand-written entries should be dark enough to be reproduced so that the judges will have a good copy to read.** All essays must be the work of only one (1) student, consisting of the student's own words, thoughts, and creativity. Electronic submissions are accepted. Teachers may choose to scan all their entries per school to submit as one PDF. Note: Upon submission, all essays become the property of the Historical Society of Orange Park.

Eligibility: The contest is open to students in Grades 4-12 who are enrolled in public and private schools and home-schooled students living in Clay County.

VI. Judging: The decision of the adjudication panel is final. **Each essay will be judged on the following criteria: Expression of the theme (50%) Content of writing (25%) Creativity of writing (25%).**

VII. Awards: A group of 3 student finalists from each of the three grade categories will be awarded a certificate of merit. The winning student from each grade category will be presented with a special plaque and a check. We currently plan on a live Veterans Day event.

First, second and third place winners in each grade category will be invited to be part of a recognition video. Students in each first-place grade level will be asked to read their essays as part of the town's Veterans Day ceremony at the Magnolia Cemetery Veterans Memorial, 1040 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, 11/11/2021, arriving by 10:30 AM for the ceremony which starts at 11 AM.

Note: The Historical Society of Orange Park assumes no responsibility for essay submissions. Winning entrants agree that Historical Society of Orange Park has the right to use, without further permission and/or compensation, their essays for promotion of Veterans Day, or any other related use. The submissions will not be returned.



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Publicity Release Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ENTIRE FORM AND PRINT CLEARLY.

Mail to: Historical Society of Orange Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 08, Orange Park, FL 32067

Contact: Cynthia Cheatwood (at Orange Park Junior High for school mailing)

Email: info@ophistory.org

Entries must be received by September 24, 2021.

NOTE: Please do not have student name or school identifying information on the front of the entry itself. Last names on the back of the essays are okay, to match essays with entry forms.

Student Information (Please write neatly, especially email addresses)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

ESSAY Contest Eligibility: Grades 4th – 12th

Teacher/School Information

Homeschool, Private or Public (continue below) _____

Name of Public School: _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Phone (day): _____ Email: _____

I have read the contest guidelines and affirm that this entry is in compliance with them. Entries must be original work, created by the student during the current school year, never have been published in any other medium, and the entrant must own all rights to reproduce the entries in any medium without restriction. All expenses involved in preparing and submitting an entry are the entrants'. Entry into this contest constitutes permission for the essay and author, to be photographed for publicity purposes and for the work to be reproduced in any medium without time, use or territorial limitation as long as such is for noncommercial purposes without any additional compensation to the child, teacher, parents, or legal guardians. All federal, state, and local regulations apply. Void where prohibited by law.

Signature of Contestant: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____



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Contest Label Form

Entries must be received by September 24, 2021.

Please paper clip this sheet with your school's entries. Please **do not staple**.

School Name: _____

Elementary _____ Junior High _____ High School _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone: _____

Number of essays entered: _____

Sponsoring Teacher's Name:): _____

Teacher's email: _____

and phone number: _____

Teachers, please make sure all entries only have the students first and last name in the upper right-hand corner of their essay paper, so that it might be covered with a numbered post-it note after arriving in the mail. Before entries are sent to judges their identity labels must be hidden so that judges are able to maintain objectivity.

THANK YOU!