

## **GUIDELINES 2023 CONSTITUTION DAY ESSAY CONTEST**

For students in grades 4-12 who reside in or attend school in Los Alamos County  
Deadline: 5:00 PM, Friday, September 29, 2023

The Awards Ceremony will take place at the Constitution Day Dinner (October 14, 2023, 6-8:30 p.m.) at Cottonwood on the Greens, sponsored by the Republican Party of Los Alamos. Winners will be notified at least one week before the dinner and will be invited to bring one guest and attend the dinner at no cost. The winners will be invited, but not required, to read their essays at the dinner.

Essay Guidelines:

The Constitution Day Essay Contest is designed to challenge students to learn more about the Constitution and to express original, thoughtful ideas in essay writing. Essays will be judged on how completely and clearly the ideas are stated and supported. Grammar, spelling and punctuation will also be considered. Judging is blind.

**Grades 4-6: Write an original essay of no more than 350 words about your favorite signer of the U.S. Constitution and why he is your favorite.**

**Middle School: Write an original essay of no more than 450 words about your favorite signer of the U.S. Constitution and why he is your favorite.**

**High School: Write an original essay of no less than 500 words and no more than 650 words answering this question: *How does the U.S. Constitution establish and maintain a culture of liberty?***

Quotes and unique facts require citations, and you may use any common style. Citations do not count in the total word count.

1. Do not put your name or contact information on your essay pages.
2. Essays must be typed (not hand-written) and double-spaced. Pages must be numbered.
3. Complete the entry form. This should be the only place your name and contact information appear.
4. Do not fold your essay. Place the completed entry form and essay inside a large envelope and seal.
5. Write on the outside of the envelope your grade level as of August 9, 2023. No other writing should appear on the envelope.
6. Turn your entry in no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 29, 2023.

Entries cannot be mailed, emailed or uploaded electronically. Place your entry envelope in the box marked "CONSTITUTION DAY ESSAY ENTRIES" at Aspen Copies, 1907 Central Ave., Los Alamos. For questions or if you need assistance with printing or delivery of your entry, contact contest sponsors at [constitutiondayessaycontest@gmail.com](mailto:constitutiondayessaycontest@gmail.com). Entries that fail to follow the guidelines shall be disqualified.

Contest is sponsored by the Los Alamos Federated Republican Women.