



2025 PIONEER DAY ESSAY CONTEST

*“The Journey Westward in
19th- Century America.”*

\$100 CASH PRIZE



Last year's winner:
Lucas Curfman

Winner represents:

Wirt County Pioneer Day

In Events, Activities
& Parades

Essay Due: Sept. 26, 2025

RULES

- Open to WCMS Grades 5 – 8
- \$100. Winner (Gr. 5 – 6)
- \$100. Winner (Gr. 7 – 8)
- Write 2 Page Essay
- Be available on Wirt Pioneer Day
Sat. October 4 (9 am – 3 pm)



The journey westward was fueled by a complex combination of economic, political, and social motives. The purpose of the journey evolved over time, starting with the search for new opportunities and land and later expanding to include the quest for wealth from mining, the pursuit of religious freedom, and the desire to build new communities away from the crowded eastern states.