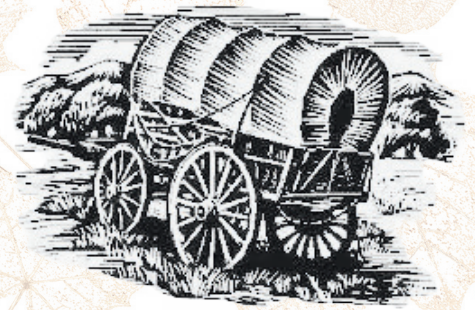


Wirt County PIONEER DAYS



2026 ESSAY CONTEST

\$100 Cash Prize



The Founding Fathers

250 years ago, the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, leaving an impactful legacy on the United States of America. These men risked everything to build a new nation, uniting men from different colonies, backgrounds, and beliefs around a shared vision of liberty, rights, and a nation governed by its people. The fight for independence was fueled by a combination of political courage, philosophical conviction, and personal sacrifice.

Last Year's Winners:

Piper Parsons
Gabby Cunningham

**Winners Represent
Wirt County Pioneer
Days at events,
activities, and parades**

Rules

- Open to WCMS Grades 5 – 8
- One Winner Grades 5 – 6
- One Winner Grades 7 – 8
- Write 2 page essay on the specified topic
- Must be available on Pioneer Day, Saturday, October 3rd (9 am – 4 pm)

Essay Due: Sept. 25, 2026