



THE CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER 2025

EXALTED RULER MESSAGE



To My Fellow Members of Deland Lodge 1463

Welcome to September. September means fall, hopefully cooler weather and College Football Saturdays. What a great time of year.

A couple of quick mentions for September. I want to give a big thanks to the members who has made the new Lodge Meeting Room a reality. Keith Klimas, Scott Sandersfield, Gary Hand, Gina Klimas, Dylan Klimas and Trish Figueredo. The Lodge Meeting room is beautiful and so proud of how it turned out. We can now dedicate the Rental Room to birthday parties, baby showers, and so many other events that we can generate income for the Lodge. If anyone knows of a person looking for an event room, please send them our way. They can reach out to Missy Elkins at 386-561-8187.

I would like to take a moment to talk about the Elks National Foundation (ENF). I am sure by now you have seen our ENF Sustaining donor board in the Lodge. ENF is a huge part how we as an Elks Lodge can provide support to the community such as Love Like Lindsey Love, Elementary Schools, House of Hope etc. ENF provide Lodges Grant Money so that we can help those in need in the community. These Grants are all possible because of donors to ENF. Please take a second to see if you would like to be a part of the Deland ENF Sustaining Donor Team. You can donate as little as \$5 a month. The donation is taken directly out of your checking monthly. Please reach out to Frank Scalia or me if you have any questions about ENF or if you would like to sign up.

Members, we have launched an additional way we can communicate with Members. We began to use a new bulk texter that will provide lodge happenings, special events or urgent communication to our member base by text. This form of communication will be optional as you will receive a welcome text that will give the member the option to opt out of you do not wish to continue to receive communication in the future. If you have recently changed your cell phone number or if you are not sure we have the most up to date information, please do not hesitate to email Alicia at Elksclub1@gmail.com with any updates you would like to provide. We will always continue to look at ways we can better keep members informed about all the great happenings here at your Elks Lodge. (Just a quick update. Loyal Knight Keith Klimas has worked diligently to work out the kinks in this system

and we believe this has been fixed. If you are still not receiving information text messages from the Lodge, please text Keith your Name and desired phone number at 407-312-2266 to ensure we get your correct number added to the list.)

The District Vice President Dinners are continuing. The next visit will be Saturday September 6th in Titusville, September 27 in Edgewater and then the Big Homecoming in our own Deland Lodge on October 25th. Our own Dean Yeager, District Vice President for the East Central District will be traveling to each of the Lodges in the District to share the message from the State President. Please check the monthly calendar to see the date of the visit for each of the Lodges. All members are encouraged to attend. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have. Please email the Lodge Secretary elksclub1@gmail.com to RSVP if you would like to attend.

Members, come on down to PER Wednesdays. Each Wednesday the PER's will be serving up a home cooked meal with each PER taking turns serving their favorite dish. Games, pull tabs, and PER Baseball are just some of the fun events that the PER's have planned for each Wednesday Evening. Come down and have a great meal, take advantage of all the Lodge has to offer on PER Wednesdays. This Month PER Night Dinners is September 3rd Mark's Chili, September 10 Chip's Chicken Cordon Bleu, September 17th Scott's Cheese Steak, September 24th Dave's Gourmet Burgers. Come down and enjoy the evening.

There are so many happenings down at the Lodge. We have just added 2 new electronic dart boards to the Social Quarters. We have shuffleboard every Thursday, Sam Kirkland will be giving shuffleboard lessons to those wanting to learn. Fridays is live music or karaoke and of course the Queen of Hearts. Now on Saturdays the Lodge will begin to open for College Football. The hours will be 11:30am-6:30pm. Come down enjoy watching your favorite College Team on one of the many big screen TVs that will be on. On College Game Day the kitchen is open and now on Saturdays you have a second chance to win at PER Baseball. On Sept 12th the Deland Elks will be going back in time to celebrate the 70's. DJ, Food, Costume Contests and fun, fun, fun. Please reach out to Inner Guard Jen Hopson with any questions 386-717-1246.

The New Year brings us a chance to revisit our Elk principles, Charity, Justice Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Things that make us who we are as a fraternal organization and individual members of society. It may have been a while since we have taken our obligation but none the less, we as members of the BPOE are held to a standard to follow the obligation whether in or outside of the Lodge. On September 4th we will be hosting a meet and greet for all new candidates that wish to become an ELK. On September 18th we will be having initiation for the new members. I encourage members to come support the new candidates and listen again to the obligation as these new candidates begin their journey into Elkdom.

In closing I am thankful to be a Deland Elk. Our focus together as a Lodge will still be to help the community in every way we can, including assisting our veterans and children. I want to encourage each of you to find something at the Lodge that inspires you, moves you or sparks your interest. Please don't hesitate to raise your hand, we have so much to do. There is something for everyone.

Please refer to the Weekly Blast, the Lodge Calendar, and our website at www.delandelks.com for more info on the happens at the lodge.

Fraternally Yours,
Glen Fannin
Exalted Ruler Deland Lodge 1463



DELAND ELKS LODGE #1463 OFFICERS 2025-2026



EXALTER RULER

GLEN FANNIN



LEADING KNIGHT

OPEN



LOYAL KNIGHT

KEITH KLIMAS



LECTURING KNIGHT

SCOTT BROWNING



SECRETARY

ALICIA VANOPDORP



TREASURER

BARBARA THOMPSON



TILER

SAM KIRKLAND



ESQUIRE

MIKE NADEAU



CHAPLIN

ANITA NIXON



INNER GUARD

JENNIFER HOPSON



ORGANIST

FRANK SCALIA



LODGE ADVISOR

MARK THOMPSON, PDDGER



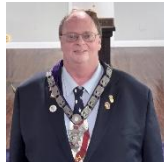
1 YEAR TRUSTEE

BILL GRUMHAUS



2 YEAR TRUSTEE

DAVE McCRANIE,PER



3 YEAR TRUSTEE

DEAN YEAGER, PER



4 YEAR TRUSTEE

SCOTT SANDERSFIELD, PER



5 YEAR TRUSTEE

BOB SARI, PER

2025–2026 Americanism Essay Contest

Theme: “What Does Service to Your Country Mean to You?”

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is excited to announce this year’s **Americanism Essay Contest** for students in **grades 5–8**.



Four divisions (one for each grade level)



National Awards: 1st – \$1,000 | 2nd – \$500 | 3rd – \$250



Winners advance from **Lodge** → **District** → **State** → **National** competitions, with national awards presented at the **Grand Lodge Session in Chicago, July 2026**.

This contest challenges young minds to reflect on American values and the true meaning of citizenship. Contest materials and participation certificates are available online starting **May 1** at: elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm.

Let’s encourage our youth to share their voices and show their American pride!



Elks National Foundation scholarship applications open

By **PATRICK ROELOFS**
ENF Communications Coordinator

Support systems can be hard to gain, especially ones that understand the challenges of transitioning to college. With scholarships from the Elks National Foundation, students receive more than financial aid; they receive an invitation to join a strong, supportive community: the #ElksFamily.

"It's been great building my #ElksFamily," said Emma Qiao, a 2025 Top 20 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Clear Lake (Kemah), TX Lodge No. 2322. "Even though we all live in different areas, at the end of the day, we're all Elks scholars, and we can always come back to this community."

Ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are open to high school seniors who will be pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis, in a United States college or university. Five hundred four-year scholarships will be awarded to the highest-rated applicants in the 2026 competition.

No relation to the Elks is needed to



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.**

apply for the MVS scholarship, but once someone is an Elks scholar, they are part of the #ElksFamily for life.

"I never realized how beneficial the Elks are, what they do for people, and what their principles are," said Ricky Lazaro, a 2025 Top 20 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by San Antonio, TX Lodge No. 216. "It's something that I think is really revolutionary, and I plan on being a part of it in the future."

For Legacy Awards winners, the Elks have always been part of the family. Awarded to children or grandchildren of Elks, this \$1,000-per-year scholarship requires recipients to serve with an Elks Lodge three times over the four years they receive the scholarship.

"Receiving a Legacy Award means so

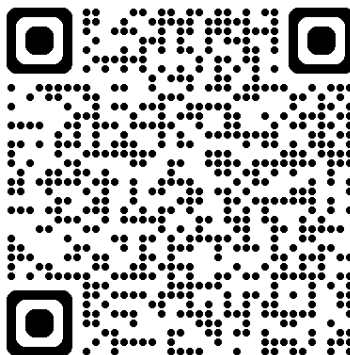
much to me and my family," said Kaylee Kollross, a 2025 Legacy Awards recipient sponsored by Marshfield, WI Lodge No. 665. "As the granddaughter of an Elks Member, I've seen firsthand some of the values the Order stands for—community, charity, integrity, and knowledge—and I am proud to carry those values forward in my own educational journey."

As they enter the next stages of their life, the class of 2026 Elks scholars will feel a range of emotions; with their new #ElksFamily, they will never feel alone.

Applications for the 2026 Most Valuable Student scholarship and Legacy Awards are now open! If you know any high school seniors, encourage them to apply.

In 2025-26, the Elks National Foundation will award \$5 million in college scholarships, ensuring a bright future for our nation's youth. As important members of the Elks family, Elks scholars receive many social and service opportunities with the Elks and one another. For more information about our scholarship programs and ways Lodges can get involved with Elks scholars, visit elks.org/scholars.

Visit the Florida Elks News online page for articles from our State Sponsor, State President, State Secretary, and the Directors of the FL Elks Children's therapy Services, and FL Elks Youth Camp. Also, read about what Lodges in the East Central and every other Florida district are doing in their communities. Scan QR code below to go to Florida Elks Web Page.



Upcoming Events



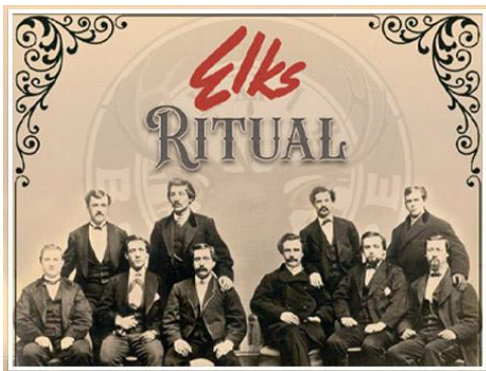
FLOE Conference

Daytona Beach, Florida
September 18-20, 2025



FSEA Midyear Convention

Orlando, Florida
November 13-15, 2025



FSEA Ritual Clinic

Umatilla, Florida
December 5-7, 2025



New Years's Eve at FEYC!

Umatilla, Florida
December 31, 2025

Our new lodge room is finally complete, and it looks fantastic! We invite all members to come out and see it in person—there's no better time than at a lodge meeting.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who pitched in to make this project a reality. Your hard work and dedication truly made the difference. Special recognition goes to **Keith Klimas** and **Scott Sandersfield** for their outstanding effort and leadership throughout the project.

We couldn't be prouder of the result—come see it, enjoy it, and let's continue building the future of our lodge together!



Birthday Celebration

David	Raihl	01		Mindy	Nadeau	14
Richard	Tomkievich	01		Chris	Nugent	17
Philip	Beute	03		Gregory	Trent	17
Roper	Ford	03		Michele	Yule	17
Marsha	Oaks	03		Donna	Nott	18
Robert	Sari, PER	04		Caroline	Fannin	19
Desiree	Templeton	04		Martin	Swann	20
Lonnie	Braddock	05		Dustin	Haig	21
George	Clifton	06		Julie	Hickox	23
Jeffery	Long Sr.	06		Michael	Chilcot	24
Mary	Bryan	08		Lucas	Flynn	24
Jay	Fisher Jr.	08		Jeffrey	Parsons	24
Gina	Klimas	08		Robert	Doyle II	25
David	McCranie, PER	08		William	Toto	25
David	Smoleroff	08		Lamar	Peterson	26
Terry	Applegate	11		Randall	Aleno	27
Linus	Thrasher	11		Geno	Sabatini	27
Donald	Walker	11		Edmond	Senez Jr	27
Robert	Bolinger	12		Marshall	McLaughlin, Jr.	29
Brian	Hill	12		Jorge	Figueredo	30
Mike	Darch	13		Donald	Koonz	30
Adam	West	13				

DELAND ELKS LODGE
1463



LOUNGE 386-738-1463
SECRETARY 386-734-0292

614 S. ALABAMA AVE.
DELAND, FL 32724

September 2025

DeLand Elks #1463



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31		2 LODGE CLOSED	3 6P-8P: MARK'S SOUTHERN CHILI WITH CORNBREAD 6:30P: PER MEETING 6:30P: CUB SCOUTS 8P: PER BASEBALL	4 6P-8P: BILL AND BETH'S BRATS WITH POTATO SALAD 6:30P: LEARN WITH SAM-SHUFFLEBOARD 6:30P: MEET AND GREET & ORIENTATION	5 6P-8P: TACO NIGHT 7P: KARAOKE WITH CRAIG 8P: QUEEN OF HEARTS	6 6P: STETSON HOME GAME 5P: VP VISIT TO TITUSVILLE 11:30A -6P: COLLEGE FOOTBALL
7	8 6P: TRUSTEE MEETING 6:30 P: LODGE MEETING & DD VISIT  7P: SCOUTS	9 LODGE CLOSED	10 6P-8P: CHIPS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU SANDWICH 8P: PER BASEBALL 6:30P: CUB SCOUTS	11 6P-8P: BAR MENU-GARY HAND 6:30P: LEARN WITH SAM-SHUFFLEBOARD	12 6P: 70'S DISCO PARTY NO QUEEN OF HEARTS	13 11:30A -6P: COLLEGE FOOTBALL 6P: PER BASEBALL
14	15 6:30P: HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 7P: SCOUTS	16 LODGE CLOSED	17 6P-8P: SCOTT'S CHEESESTEAK 8P: PER BASEBALL 6:30P: CUB SCOUTS 5P-7:30P: LODGE RENTAL-REPUBLICAN CLUB 8:30A-11A: LODGE RENTAL	18 6P-8P: BAR MENU 6:30P: LEARN WITH SAM-SHUFFLEBOARD 6:30P: INITIATION 7P-9:30P: LODGE RENTAL-ROLLER DERBY LIFETIME SCREENING	19 6P-8P: WING NIGHT 8P: QUEEN OF HEARTS	20 1P: STETSON HOME GAME 11:30A -6P: COLLEGE FOOTBALL 6P: PER BASEBALL
21	22 NO LODGE MEETING 7P: SCOUTS	23 LODGE CLOSED	24 6P-8P: DAVE'S GOURMET BURGERS 8P: PER BASEBALL 6:30P: CUB SCOUTS	25 6P-8P: FOOD TRUCK 6:30P: LODGE SHUFFLE BOARD TOURNAMENT	26 6P-8P: FOOD TRUCK 6:30 P: MUSIC BY MARK DARREN 8P: QUEEN OF HEARTS 11A: SERVING LUNCH AT FIRST STEP SHELTER	27 11:30A -6P: COLLEGE FOOTBALL 5P: VP VISIT TO EDGEWATER/NSB
28	29 LODGE CLOSED.	30 LODGE CLOSED.	1	2	3	4

DELAND ELKS LODGE 1463 LOUNGE 386-738-1463
 SECRETARY 386-734-0292

614 S. ALABAMA AVE.
 DELAND, FL 32721

LODGE OPENS AT 5 PM WEDNESDAY THRU FRIDAY
 LODGE OPENS AT 11:30 AM ON SATURDAY



***Let's Get Groovy &
Dance the Night Away!!***

September 12th

Wear your Groovy Best

6:00pm -10:00pm

***\$15pp ~ Use QR Code below to prepay or pay at the
Lodge by 9/05***

Food, Drinks and Great FUN!

Can you Dig it!!





College Football is Back



Deland Elks Lodge Starting August 30, 11:30 am-6 pm. Every Saturday during College Football Season. Be sure to come down to cheer on your favorite College Team on one of the many big screen TVs. Games, Food and of course cold beverages to help make your football Saturday the best. Darts and shuffleboard will also be available.



UP COMING EVENTS

9/1: Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website (floridaelks.org) for the FSEA/GL Drug Awareness Poster Contest.

9/1: Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website (floridaelks.org) for the FSEA/GL Drug Awareness Essay Contest

9/1: Contest criteria and entry information available on FSEA website (floridaelks.org) for the FSEA/GL Drug Awareness Video Contest

9/1: FSEA C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship applications available on FSEA website (floridaelks.org)

9/1: ENF Legacy Scholarship applications available at elks.org/scholars

9/6: VP visit to Titusville

9/12: Lodge 70's party

9/26: Serving lunch at First Step Shelter

9/27: VP visit to Edgewater

10/3: Kids Night

10/17: Birthday Steak Dinner

10/25: District Vice President Homecoming Dinner

11/2: Elks Day at Stetson Mansion-12 PM.

11/8: "Love like Lindsay Loved" Corn Hole Tournament

11/23: DeLand Elks Thanksgiving Dinner

11/28: Serving lunch at First Step Shelter

GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

MARK E. EATON
Administrator
Americanism Essay Contest



1 Orms Steet
WARWICK, RI 02889-9318
H (401) 738-8133
C (401) 529-9213
meeaton1@verizon.net

July 2025

2025-2026 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

CHALLENGING YOUNG, INQUISITIVE MINDS TO EXPLORE AMERICAN VALUES!

“What Does Service to Your Country Mean to You?”

The features introduced to the contest 3 years ago continue:

- 1) Four separate divisions for 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grade students.
- 2) Awards for Each Grade Level — •\$1,000 for 1st; •\$500 for 2nd; •\$250 for 3rd.

I am pleased to announce that the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has selected the **theme**, “What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?” for the 2025-2026 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Chicago, Illinois in July 2026. This contest gives students in four separate grade levels, grades 5-8, the opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate and express their views on the selected annual theme.

Nationally, first-place, second-place and third-place authors in each division will receive monetary awards of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 respectfully. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also provide various forms of recognition to their respective winners, and the Fraternal Committee appreciates and encourages their extraordinary efforts in support of the contest.

Contest materials, including the “annual contest theme,” are published online on May 1. Lodges are encouraged to communicate with school officials in a timely fashion to facilitate annual curriculum planning. Contest materials and a fillable Certificate of Participation for Lodge completion are located at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm>.

This contest is vitally important to Elks as it promotes Americanism in our local communities. It encourages 10-13 year old students to thoughtfully consider American values and appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to assisting you in promoting Americanism. Please let us know what we can do to be more helpful!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Eaton".

Mark E. Eaton, *Administrator*
Americanism Essay Contest
Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee



2025-2026 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST COVER SHEET

(MUST be attached to each Essay)



“What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?”

Section 1 — to be filled out by student

(Circle or Highlight One Grade)

•Division I: 5th Grade

•Division II: 6th Grade

•Division III: 7th Grade

•Division IV: 8th Grade

School _____ Teacher's Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____

Student's Name _____ Male ☐ Female ☐ Age _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone (_____) _____
(used only to contact the winners)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Send to Local Lodge no later than December 15, 2025.

Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ Phone Number (_____) _____

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 31, 2026 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

Section 3 — to be filled out by District Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chairman's Phone Number (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 28, 2026 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

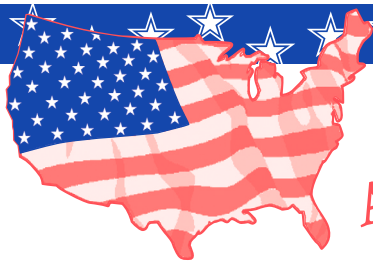
Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman

Chairman's Name _____ State _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

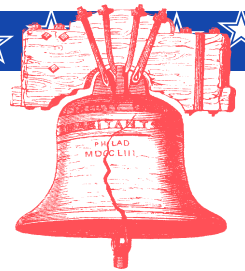
Chairman's Phone Number (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Select the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the Contest Administrator, Mark E. Eaton, by March 31, 2026.



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

*Sponsored by Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
The United States of America*



THEME:

“What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?”

RULES:

1. At the time of the contest, eligible participants must be Students enrolled in one of these four divisions: **I**—5th grade; **II**—6th grade; **III**—7th grade; or **IV**—8th grade.
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, Essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge nearest to the address of the entrant.
5. Participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending and sponsoring Elks Lodge on the Essay.

AWARDS:

Plaques will be awarded by Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place for national winning essays in Divisions I, II, III, and IV. Monetary awards will be disbursed for each grade level for 1st Place—\$1,000; 2nd Place—\$500; and 3rd Place—\$250. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Chicago, IL, July 5-8, 2026.

ENTRY DATE:

Essay should be submitted to local Elks Lodge on/before December 15, 2025.

The Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be completed for each level of competition and remain attached to the Essay.

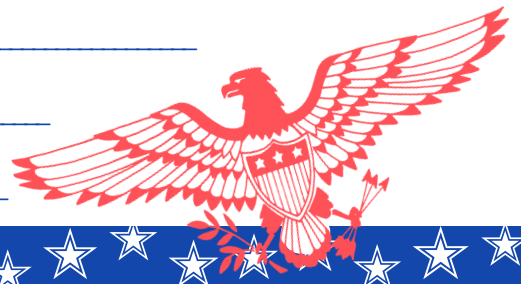
Sponsoring Elks Lodge: _____ No. _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone No. _____

E-mail: _____





2025-2026

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Theme: *“What Does Service to Your Country Mean To You?”*

1. Eligible participants must be a student enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the normal 2025-26 school year, preceding June 30, 2026. **Deadline: Must be submitted to Local Lodge by December 15, 2025.**
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, Essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge administering the contest at his or her school or, if unknown, to the Lodge nearest to the home address of the entrant.
5. Entrant must be identified on essay by name, home address, grade, school attended and sponsoring Lodge. (Lodge may enter Lodge information on essay cover sheet.)
6. Judging criteria:
 - Originality: Avoid the use of trite or worn out words and phrases – 30 points
 - Development of theme: Stay focused on ideas and thoughts. Don't ramble – 40 points
 - Mechanics and neatness: Use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation – 30 points

There are now four separate divisions for judging essays:

• **Division I**—5th grade; • **Division II**—6th grade • **Division III**—7th grade; & • **Division IV**—8th grade

PROCEDURES FOR LODGE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select from submitted entries the top three essays from each division and send the twelve essays to the District Americanism Chairman by Jan. 31, 2026, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the top three essays in each division from all entries submitted by Local Lodges and send the twelve essays to the State Americanism Chairman by Feb. 28, 2026, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR STATE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the first-, second- and third-place winners for the state from entries submitted by the District Chairman. In addition, State Chairman forwards the first-place winners from each division to the Grand Lodge Essay Contest Administrator. (Must be postmarked by March 31, 2026.)

SEND TO: Essay Contest Administrator Mark E. Eaton, Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee,
1 Orms Street, Warwick, RI 02889-9318.

Plaques and monetary awards for first-, second-, and third-place winning essays in Divisions I, II, III, and IV, will be available for pickup at the Fraternal Committee's Booth at the end of the Grand Lodge Session on July 8, 2026.