

## National Sojourners Essay Contest

National Sojourners, Inc. conducts an annual National essay contest for high school students. All Sojourner Chapters are encouraged to provide the opportunity for participation to all High School students in their area. This is accomplished through coordinated efforts with school guidance counselors, military instructors of JROTC units and teachers. Each Chapter, in turn, has a committee which organizes the operation of the contest and locally judges the submitted essays before sending their winners to National Headquarters for competitive evaluation. All essays must be received by National Headquarters not later than 15 January of the upcoming New Year. Notification of winners will be published in the May-June National Sojourners Newsletter. The sponsoring Chapters of the winners will provide appropriate presentation ceremonies.

## Prizes

National Sojourners presents three “place” awards each year and are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place  
\$2,000 Check & Plaque

2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
\$1,000 Check & Plaque

3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
\$500 Check & Plaque

## Theme

The Theme changes from year to year and is relevant to current societal, social and civic issues of the day - for example: In 2010 the Theme was **United States Presidents on Your Facebook.** Other themes have been **Patriotic Songs, your favorite and why and Arlington National Cemetery, your favorite tour and why.** No two themes have been repeated in over twelve years of the contest.

## National Web Site

Information regarding this contest and a downloadable “Authorized Cover Sheet” can be found on the National Sojourners web site “**National Sojourners.org.**” Place cursor on “Americanism Programs” and click on the “Essay Contest” program.

## Question

The question for the essay changes with each year’s contest. The Question is developed by the Americanism Committee and is always relevant to Americanism and Patriotism.

## Rules

The essay contest is open to students currently in the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades (including home schooled students). Essays should be 300 to 500 words in length (includes word count and cite quotations). Submit essays to the local National Sojourners

Chapter using the **Authorized Cover Sheet** (must be filled out completely). Each Chapter can submit a maximum of 3 essays to National Sojourners Headquarters (postmarked not later than Jan 15<sup>th</sup>). The Americanism Committee, National Sojourners, will determine, through professional evaluation, the winners and their names will be subsequently sent to National Headquarters by 1 May of every year for publication. The next year's theme and question will also be available on 1 May for distribution and placement on the Americanism Committee's web page.

### Grading Criteria

Essays will be graded for word count, grammar, continuity of thought, theme orientation, spelling, and sentence structure.

### Student Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Home

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please return this application to the nearest National Sojourner Chapter in your area**

### Chapter Information

National Chapter Name/Number

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Chapter Point of Contact

\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Point of Contact Home

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Point of Contact Address

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