YOUTH WRITING CONTEST 2020

All Kansas students in Grades 3-12 are invited to participate!

Theme: "Kansans Can"

The people of Kansas have a long tradition of facing challenges and finding ways to overcome these challenges. Describe a challenge or problem faced by people, of any age, who live in Kansas today. Then design a solution for a better future for Kansans.

Young people are the future problem-solvers of Kansas. Think big. Your solutions may or may not be possible today but could be in the near or distant future.

A strong essay will:

- Describe a challenge or problem faced by Kansans. Explain how this challenge is unique to Kansas.
- Describe a creative solution to the problem or challenge.
- Explain how the solution will make life better for Kansans.
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking.
- Include correct conventions of spelling grammar, capitalization, and punctuation to effectively present one's ideas.

Criteria for essays

- Grades 3-5 essays should be no more than 750 words and must be original work.
- Grades 6-8 essays should be no more than 1,000 words and must be original work.
- Grades 9-12 essays should be no more than 1,500 words and must be original work.

Entries that are included with a registration form will be accepted through May 1. Entries postmarked on or before May 1 will also be accepted. Winners will be notified by July 31 and recognized at the 2020 Kansas Book Festival in September.

Essays can be sent in either electronically to **aparkma1@emporia.edu** OR mailed to **Kansas Masonic Literacy Center, Attention: Writing Contest, Emporia State University, Campus Box 4036, 1 Kellogg Circle, Emporia, KS 66801.**

PRIZES!

There will be one first place winner and one second place winner in each grade level division for each of the four Congressional Districts. All winning essays with permission will be compiled into a book and each winner will receive a copy.

Grades 3–5: First place receives **$100**
Second place receives **$50**

Grades 6-8: First place receives **$250**
Second place receives **$125**

Grades 9-12: First place receives **$500**
Second place receives **$250**

All essays selected as finalists will be screened by antiplagiarism software to confirm the essay is original work. All submitted essays will become the property of the Kansas Book Festival's Youth Writing Contest and are non-returnable.

The Kansas Book Festival Youth Writing Contest is coordinated by the Kansas Masonic Literacy Center in The Teachers College at Emporia State University.

KANSAS MASONIC LITERACY CENTER