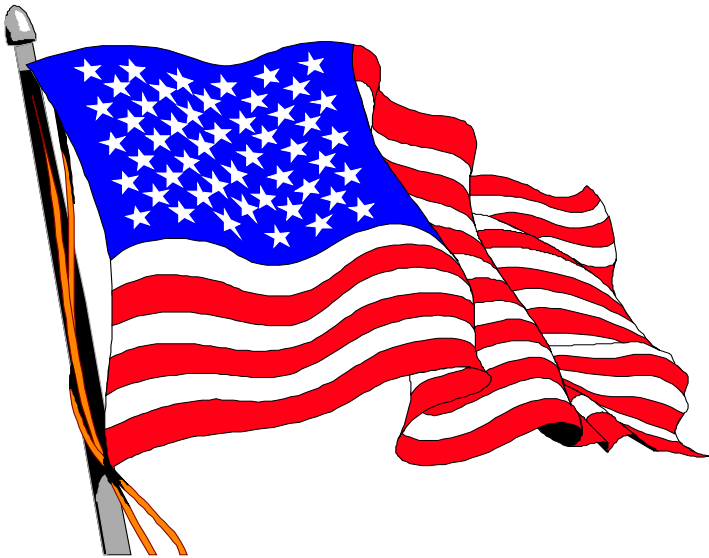




**Erie County American Legion
And
Erie County American Legion Auxiliary**

**Americanism Essay Contest
2018**

TOPIC: I am your Flag. " What do the colors of our country mean to me? Why should they be respected? "



Cash Prizes in Each Division:

1st Place -\$150.00 + Gold Medal & Certificate

2nd Place -\$100.00 + Silver Medal & Certificate

3rd Place -\$75.00 + Bronze Medal & Certificate

Winning Essays Will Compete at State and National Levels for Prizes up to \$500.00

Eligibility

Fifth and Sixth Grade Students in Erie County, Elementary Public and Private Schools

Divisions of Competition

Fifth and Sixth Grade Students will compete in separate divisions. Schools are invited to submit only the top essay in each division.

Contest Rules

Schools with students entering the essay contest are encouraged to submit one essay in both the 5th and 6th grade divisions.

Essay Content

Essays must contain at least 250, but not more than 300 words, and should be typed and double-spaced. Definite and indefinite articles, conjunctions and prepositions are counted as words. Dates such as October 25, 2015 are counted as 3 words. Footnotes are not included in the word count. Only one side of the paper may be used. Words or phrases quoted from references must be properly footnoted at the bottom of the page. Handwritten essays will be accepted; however they must be written in ink and be clearly legible.

Title Page and Identification Data

The title page must show:

Title

Student Name and Address

School Name and Address

Teacher Signature and Verification of Grade Level

Students must print at the top of each page of the essay the following:

Student Name and Phone Number

Student age

Name of School

Grade

Division (5th or 6th grade)

Number of words

THE SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT MUST BE AT THE END OF THE ESSAY.

Submission Deadline

All Essays must be received by **May 7, 2018** at:

**Erie County American Legion Headquarters
ATTENTION: ESSAY CHAIRMAN
609 City Hall
Buffalo, New York 14202**

Judging and Awarding of Prizes

Members of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary will select the top ten essays in each division. Distinguished members of the community to include government leaders and educators will conduct the final judging.

Essays will be judged on:

**Originality – rather than simply providing facts
Relativity – to today's world and events
Patriotism – a feeling of what America stands for**

Decisions of judges will be final, and essays become the property of the Erie County American Legion. Questions may be referred to Erie County American Legion Headquarters at 852 – 6500.

Prizes will be awarded at the Erie County American Legion Convention on Saturday June 2, 2018 at:

**Iroquois Post #1587
12789 Route 438
Irving, NY 14070**