

Americanism Essay Contest

Sponsored By

Placerville Elks Lodge

What Does Service To Your Country Mean To You?

Entry Rules

- Eligible participants must be students in the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grades during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Essay length is not to exceed 300 words (exceeding word limit will result in disqualification).
- Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Essays must be submitted as written or typed by student.
- Entrant must be identified on the essay by student name, home address, school's name, teacher's name and student's grade level. This information must be typed on the first page of the essay in the upper left corner. If this information is not listed, the essay will be disqualified.
- All essays must be submitted to the Placerville Elks Lodge (address below) by December 15th, 2025. The attached cover sheet (with Section 1 completed) must be attached.
- Judging Criteria:
 - Originality: avoid use of trite and worn-out words and phrases.
 - Development of Theme: focus on ideas and thoughts- don't ramble.
 - Mechanics & Neatness: proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Placerville Elks Lodge #1712

Drop off: 3821 Quest Court, Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Mail: P.O. Box 1596, Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Questions? Call: Cindy Rinaldi (209) 981-2100



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 Jack Cummings Phone Number (916) 717-5505

Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number Placerville Elks Lodge #1712

Address P.O. Box 1596 City Shingle Springs State CA ZIP 95682

E-mail laurinjack@sbcglobal.net

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

Each year, the Placerville Elks Lodge #1712 sponsors an essay contest featuring a theme relating to Americanism. Students in fifth through eighth grades are encouraged to participate by writing an essay of not more than

300 words on this year's topic:

What Does Service To Your Country Mean To You?



The first, second & third place winners in each Division will win cash prizes!

Division 1 (5th Grade), Division 2 (6th Grade), Division 3 (7th Grade) and Division 4 (8th Grade)

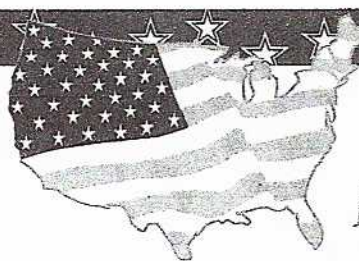
1st Place- \$150

2nd Place- \$100

3rd Place- \$50

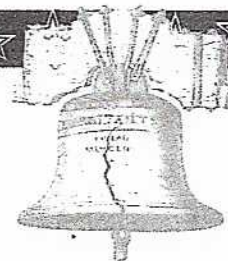
Essays will be due to the Placerville Elks Lodge during December 2025. For more information, please see attached documents, or contact Jack Cummings, Americanism Chairman, at (916) 717-5505.





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: **Placerville Elks Lodge** No. **1712**
Address: **P.O. Box 1596, Shingle Springs, CA 95682**
Contact Person: **Jack Cummings**
Phone No. **916-717-5505**
E-mail: **laurinjack@sbcglobal.net**

