

2019 CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MT PROSPECT COUNCIL 6481

Mount Prospect Council 6481 again is sponsoring the Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. The essay contest is a creative way to encourage young people to become citizens who are firmly grounded in the Faith.

Theme: The meaning of Virtue and how I live and embody the virtue of Charity.

“Charity is the theological virtue which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God” - Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1822

Biblically, virtue is understood as the conformity of life and conduct with the principles of morality, while Charity signifies the reciprocal love between God and man, one that is manifest in unselfish love and eloquently shown in the life, teachings, and death of Jesus Christ. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

In an essay of 500-750 words, consider the meaning of virtue and think about ways in which you exemplify the virtue of Charity to glorify and reflect the nature of God. This could be at home with your families or in your communities, as you enrich the welfare of others.

Eligibility

The Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students in 8th grade during the current school year.

Guidelines

- Essays must reflect the assigned theme and topic, and be submitted by the published deadlines.
- Essays must be the student’s original work.
- Essays must be typed on 8½” X 11” paper, one sided, double spaced, with one-inch margins, 12 pt, block or typewriter font; please, do not use fancy, cursive-style font.
- Essays must be between 500 and 750 words long, two-to-three typed pages.
- The student’s name should only appear on the official Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest entry form, which must be stapled to the back of the essay.
- All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

Timetable

- August: Council announces Essay Contest to local schools
- September: Students write essays. Essays should be submitted by October 11, 2019.
- October: Judges review essays for Council level on October 14, 2018.
- November: District/Regional [Archdiocese] judging.
- December: Jurisdictional [Illinois] judging.
- Essays due to the Supreme Council for international judging by December 15. Jurisdiction winners should be recognized at the state convention or another jurisdiction event.
- January: International Essay Contest winners announced by the Supreme Council Office.

Judging

Judges will be selected by Mount Prospect Council. Knights of Columbus members, teachers, clergy, civic officials, and members of the community may serve as judges.

Essays will be judged on a 100-point scoring system:

- 35 points — Content: How clearly is the theme presented?
- 30 points — Grammar: How well is the essay written with respect to essay construction, paragraph construction, sentence structure, spelling, and grammar?
- 35 points— Style: Does the essay show creativity, imagination, and development of the topic in a compelling style?

Awards

The Council will provide participation certificates which are presented by the school and teacher at their convenience. The Council will award certificates and medallions for first, second and third place winners during November or December, at the school's convenience.