

# MY LOUISIANA ESSAY PROGRAM

## Theme: "LOUISIANA LIFE"

**2017 -2018**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**

**Local unit (school) deadline**

District deadline: October 9, 2017

**DISTRICTS MAY SUBMIT UP TO 3 ENTRIES PER DIVISION TO STATE FOR JUDGING.**

**CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL DISTRICT CHAIR FOR DISTRICT DEADLINE AND NUMBER OF ENTRIES TO SUBMIT.**

**ENTRIES MUST BE JUDGED AT SCHOOL AND DISTRICT BEFORE BEING SENT TO STATE.**

### Guidelines

- **Students may submit entries to their local units (by Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>)** to be judged. Local units will then forward winning entries to their district. Local program chairs will need to communicate with districts on the number of entries they may submit.
- Districts/councils may submit up to fifteen (15) entries for judging on state level. District entries must be postmarked by **January 15, 2018**. Entries received directly from local units without going through district judging will be disqualified. If a district does not have a district president or is not participating in the contest, local units in that district interested in participating should contact the "My Louisiana" Chair.
- Participation in the essay contest must be through a PTA/PTSA unit in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible. It is the responsibility of the district and local PTA/PTSA unit to determine each student's eligibility in the contest.
- Students may enter in the appropriate grade division:
  - ★ PRIMARY: Preschool - Grade 2
  - ★ INTERMEDIATE: Grades 3 - 5
  - ★ MIDDLE/JUNIOR: Grades 6 – 8
  - ★ **SENIOR: Grades 9 – 12**
  - ★ **SPECIAL ARTIST: All Grades**
- If students do not fall into a specific grade division, it is suggested that they be grouped as follows. It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA unit to determine the appropriate division if necessary.
  - ★ PRIMARY: up to age 7
  - ★ INTERMEDIATE: ages 8 - 10
  - ★ MIDDLE/JUNIOR: ages 11 - 13
  - ★ **SENIOR: ages 14+**
  - ★ **SPECIAL ARTIST: All ages 3-18**
- **The essay title will be "Louisiana Life."**
- Resources should be listed on the **official entry form**. Students are encouraged to contact their local Chamber of Commerce, Visitor and Convention Bureau, Historical Societies, City Hall and public library for information concerning their area.

- Entries will be submitted on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper. Entries must be written by hand or typed by the student. Disabled students or students in the primary category may dictate to another person who may type or write their original work. These transcribers are not to alter in any manner their grammar or form of speech of the child. Handwritten entries are to be on one side of the paper, using additional sheets if necessary.
- Students are encouraged to keep a copy of their work. Entries will be returned to the district presidents.
- Student artwork will not affect judging.
- All participants are required to complete the **official entry form, which** authorizes the Louisiana PTA free use of any entry in any manner deemed appropriate by the Louisiana PTA. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible for the program. In situations where a student cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign her/his name. A parent or legal guardian (not a teacher) also must sign the affirmation of originality and the permission clause.
- The essay will be accepted in a folder with pockets. Place the entry form in the left pocket and essay in the right pocket.
- All entries must be the work of the student alone. Entries done by two or more students are not permitted. Parents, friends and teachers must not assist the student in any way other than transportation during research. Each student must sign the affirmation sentence concerning originality. The number of entries that can be submitted is one per student.
- Entries that do not follow the guidelines or are received after the deadline will be disqualified.

## Judging

Local units should hold preliminary judging at their school level and select winners to forward to district competition. Districts will hold judging before sending entries to the Louisiana PTA.

Judges at the state level will be based on

- The essay length
  - Primary – no more than 250 words
  - Intermediate/Middle/Senior – no more than 1000 words
- The essay theme is **"Louisiana Life"**
- The essay must be about a specific area with content directly related to the theme.

## Awards

Louisiana PTA will present up to three (3) Awards of Excellence and three (3) Awards of Merit in each of the four (4) grade divisions and special artist division. All winners will be given a copy of winning essays and will be recognized at the Louisiana PTA Convention.

## Submission

All entries must be judged at the local unit level and then the district level before being sent to the state for judging. Questions should be directed to the LAPTA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of Programs.

**District winning entries should be mailed to:**

**LAPTA 3rd Vice President, Programs**

**Jill Jeffrey**

**PO Box 383**

**Pearl River, LA 70452**

**DEADLINE: Entries submitted to state by districts must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2018.**