2026-2027 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Challenging young, inquisitive minds to explore American Values!

"Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and How It Affects You and Your Family."

The features introduced to the contest 4 years ago continue:

1) Four separate divisions for 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grade students.
2) Awards for Each Grade Level — •$1,000 for 1st; •$500 for 2nd; •$250 for 3rd.

I am pleased to announce that the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has selected the theme, **"Explain a Constitutional Right or Privilege and How It Affects You and Your Family"** for the 2026-2027 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Denver, Colorado in July 2027. This contest gives students in four separate grade levels, grades 5-8, the opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate and express their views on the selected annual theme.

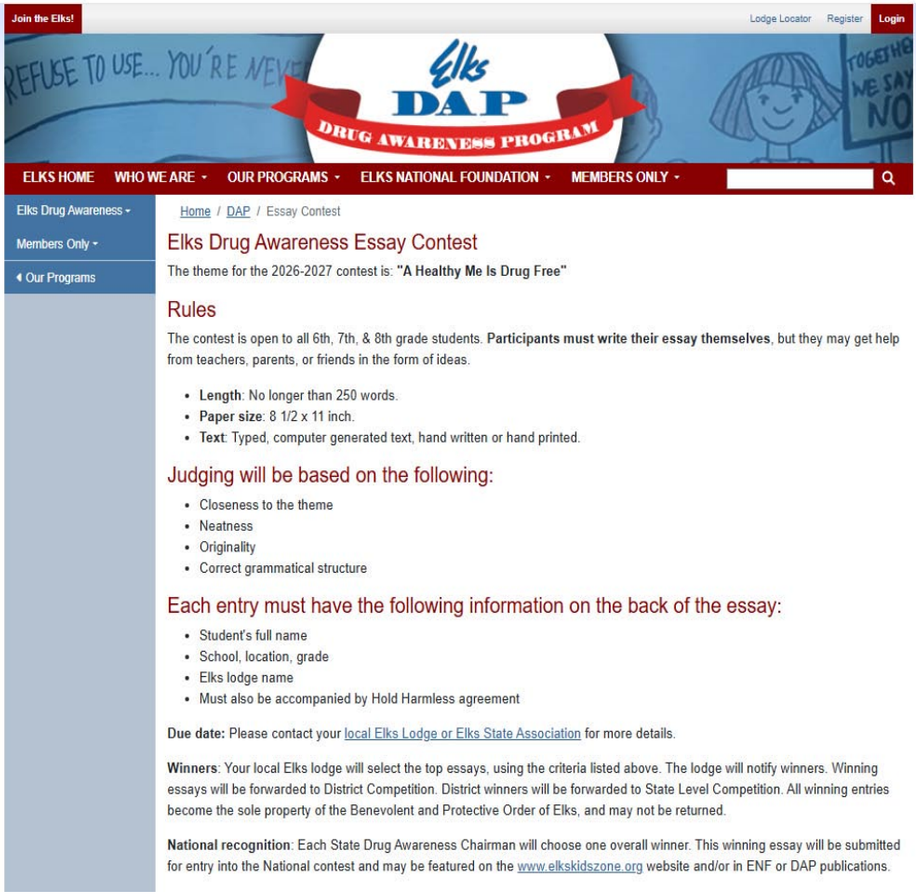
Nationally, first-place, second-place and third-place authors in each division will receive monetary awards of $1,000, $500, and $250, respectively. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also provide various forms of recognition to their respective winners, and the Fraternal Committee appreciates and encourages their extraordinary efforts in support of the contest.

Contest materials, including the annual contest theme, are published online on May 1. Lodges are encouraged to communicate with school officials in a timely fashion to facilitate annual curriculum planning. Contest materials and a fillable Certificate of Participation for Lodge completion are located at: https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm.

This contest is vitally important to Elks as it promotes Americanism in our communities. It encourages 10-13 year old students to thoughtfully consider American values and appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of citizenship.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to assisting you in promoting Americanism. Please let us know what we can do to be more helpful!

Go to: www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm



Go to: https://www.elks.org/dap/resources/essay.cfm

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Friends Of Minsi Lake Installs Memorial Benches At The Lake

By Michael Orbaiz

UMBT - Friends of Minsi Lake (FOML) launched a park bench fundraising blitz by soliciting $500 donations each for 9-plus memorial benches in honor of loved ones to be installed at Minsi Lake. There are engineered spaces for 9 more park benches at Minsi: 3 crushkrete sites on the east side, 4 additional poured concrete pads on the south side, & 1 each crushkrete & paved macadam sites on the west side. Crushkrete sites will require precast concrete pads to set & anchor the benches onto.

There's also a number of sites to place benches along the lakeside of the Dam Trail, which the public has asked for on our Group FB page. PFBC has approved this with some guidelines. These, too, will require precast concrete pads to set & anchor the benches onto.

Also to be installed will be 11 picnic tables & 3 charcoal grills at the West Shore Picnic Grove. Boat storage structures to be installed: at the west side boat yard, message boards & kiosks at all 3 lakeside recreation areas & a fishing dock on the east side. these will be items purchased through memorial donations also.



Friends of Minsi Lake

MEMORIAL BENCHES

Bench includes a 3"H x 9"W plaque with engraving to fit 2"H x 8"W plate with 3 to 5 lines

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Sponsor: _____

Address: _____

Phone & e-mail: _____

Prior to engraving, you will be sent a proof by e-mail to review and approve
Minsi Lake Park Bench Sponsorship - $500 Per Bench
Bench Donation Checks Should Be Made Out To: NCJCS-FOML And Mailed To NCJCS-FOML, PO Box 261, Bath, PA 18014.

For More Info Contact Jim Wilson at JWilson@norcopa.gov, 610-829-6404