

Here is the information for the essay and poster contest this year. We are getting it out a little earlier in hopes that we can get more lodges and schools involved this year.

The rules for these contests are very simple. The theme for both contests this year is, "I've Better Things to Do Than Drugs" The rules are as follows.

Essay Contest

1. Targeted for grades 6 through 8 (no high school students)
2. Essay should be no more than 500 words
3. The essay should show the writer put some thought into their work. Writing "drugs are bad because...." is not adequate.
4. Here are some basic questions that will be used to judge the essays.
 - a. Is it based on the theme?
 - b. Is it original?
 - c. Is it neat? Typed or handwritten?
 - d. Is it grammatically correct?
 - e. Is it a message that will touch other people?

Poster Contest

1. Targeted for grades 3 through 5 (no high school students)
2. Poster should be no larger than 8 ½ by 11. (If the poster is larger than this it will be reduced to 8 ½ by 11 for the coloring book before it is judged.)
3. Here are some basic questions that will be used to judge the posters.
 - a. Is it based on the theme?
 - b. Is it original?
 - c. Is it neat?
 - d. Is it grammatically correct?
 - e. Is it free from copyrighted characters (with the exception of Elroy)?

Information required with each entry

1. Name of the student
2. Age of the student
3. Grade of the student
4. Home address of the student (should be on a separate document)
5. Name of the student's school
6. Name of the student's teacher
7. Social Security number of the student (should be on a separate document)
8. Telephone number of the student (should be on a separate document)
9. Completed Hold Harmless Agreement

I realize some of this information is sensitive and in an effort to increase participation you may not want to require all of this information for every entry in your local contest. However, we cannot submit any entry to the national level that does not have all of this information. Therefore, everything listed above is REQUIRED to be included with all entries submitted to the state level. Missing information will be grounds for the entry being disqualified.

Both essays and posters are due to the state committee no later than April 1, 2010. Each lodge committee is responsible for contacting local schools and letting them know about the contest and then collecting the essays/posters when the students are completed. Each lodge committee should then judge the essays/posters based on the above listed criteria. The top three essays and posters from each lodge should then be sent to:

Lee Kibbee
15788 W 147 St
Olathe KS 66062
816-810-7050

The state committee will then select two winners for the essay contest and two winners for the poster contest. The first place winner for each contest will be awarded a \$100 savings bond and the second place winner will get a \$50 savings bond. In addition the first place winner for the essay contest will be forwarded to the national level where they have a chance to win a \$500 savings bond. Both posters selected will be sent to the national level. The first place poster is guaranteed a spot in the Elks coloring book and the second place poster may be used as well. The National winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge training session.

If you need a copy of the hold harmless agreement, you have any questions or need any assistance please do not hesitate to call or email me.

These contests are an excellent way for us to expose the generous heart of Elkdom to our communities and help out the youth of our communities at the same time. Kansas has only participated in this program for the last two years, each year three lodges were all that participated. Yet in 2009 we had the honor of presenting a \$500 savings bond to the National Essay Winner at the Junction City Lodge's Flag Day Ceremony. If you are having trouble getting this into the schools through the school administrators don't forget to contact your local DARE program or School Resource Officers, sometimes they are able to use this as part of their programs.

Sincerely,

Lee Kibbee
15788 W 147th St
Olathe KS 66062
elk1785@yahoo.com
816-810-7050



POSTER CONTEST & ESSAY CONTEST
Hold Harmless Agreement
-WAIVER-

My child _____ is the recipient of an Elks award through the Drug Awareness Poster/Essay Contest. I hereby give consent to the use of his or her name, photo and or Poster/Essay in *The Elks Magazine* or other Elks' publications (including all forms of media) in furthering the programs and works of charity for the Order of Elks. I further consent that the Essay/Poster shall become the property of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Witness

Witness



(This document should be signed by the parent/guardian of any person under the age of 18)