

ESSAY CONTEST

“What Scouting has meant (or means) to me...”

The Mt. Diablo Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America would like Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Varsity Scouts to participate in an the contest. All essays will be retained in binders.

Format

There will be two categories of entries, written essays and video essays. A written essay should be 300-500 words and must include an entry form. Entries may be typed or hand-written, but must be double-spaced. Video entries must be no longer than 10 minutes in length.

Entering

Send all entries to the MDSC Service Center, 800 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Or email to valerie.ridgers@scouting.org

Each application must include at the top of the cover page:

Name

Address

Phone

Age

Pack, Troop, Crew or Post #

Awards

For each category (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Varsity/Venturing) there will be 3 cash awards, a plaque and winning essays will be read at the Patron Dinner on April 13th.

First Place \$75

Second Place \$50

Third Place \$25

Entry Deadline

All entries should be postmarked by **March 19th, 2010**.

Complete Official Rules

Section I – General Rules

1. Contestants must be registered scouts as of February 2010 to enter
2. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others.
3. Mt. Diablo Silverado Council will have the right to edit, publish, or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.
4. There is no cost to enter the contest.

Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to all Scouts in the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council
2. Contestants may submit only one entry.

Section III – Contest Rules

1. Each contestant should read the rules. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.
2. Participants must write on the official topic.
3. Each entry must include the Contest Entry Title. Essays may be typewritten or legibly handwritten but must be double-spaced.
4. Essays must contain at least 300 words but no more than 500 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes.
5. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
6. Essays must be written in English.
7. The written entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Video entries must be submitted on a DVD.
8. Any protest in the conduct of the contest must be made immediately. The Contest Chair and committee of judges will decide all protests in conformity with the contest rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

Section IV – Scoring of Contest

Scoring procedures for each category of the contest will be identical.

1. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 40 points.
2. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points.
3. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points.
4. Neatness: 5 points.
5. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points.