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ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

Write a piece of history
and make yourself a part of history!

Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest

Veterans Day is observed in honor of all who fought to keep the flag of freedom flying over this great land. This year, on Saturday, November 10, 2007 the citizens of Milwaukee will pause to express their gratitude to the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces at the 44th Annual Veterans Day Parade.

You can make history by entering the Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest. We need you to go out into the community, talk with our veterans and record the story of their experiences and military service to our country. All entries will be bound in a booklet

Beginning with our Nation's struggle for freedom more than 2 centuries ago, approximately 42 million men and women have served this country during wartime periods. Today, there are approximately 24.6 million veterans living in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; over 18 million (74 percent) of these veterans served during at least one wartime period. The people of the United States of America have much to learn from those who served in our armed forces. Please help preserve this rich and valuable resource for many generations to come.

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Who can participate?

All students in the 5th through 8th grades who are attending public, private or home school.

Prizes

This year, a special thank you to Ralph A. Ignatowski AMVETS Memorial Post 60 for providing the funds for the savings bonds.

The first, second and third place winners at each grade level will ride in the parade and be presented with certificates of honor at a ceremony after the parade.

First Place Winners will also receive a flag that has been flown over our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. and a \$200.00 savings bond. All flags come with a certificate of authenticity.

Second Place Winners will receive a \$100.00 savings bond and a certificate of honor.

Third Place Winners will receive a \$50.00 savings bond and a certificate of honor.

Deadline Extended!

All entries must be postmarked by Saturday, October 20, 2007
Winners will be notified by phone on Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Guidelines for Writing an Essay

1. Find someone to write about. Subjects must have served in the United States Armed Forces, which is the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Subjects may have served in war or peace time. Talk to your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, even your neighbors.

***If you need someone to write about, call the Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest Coordinator Carol Knuth at 414-461-9285 and she will put you in contact with a veteran willing to share their story.

2. Ask permission from the veteran you have chosen to write about, to submit their story to the Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest. Some veterans may not want to share their experiences. Be polite and ask first. Remember to respect their right to say no.

3. Complete the Veterans Information Form.

4. Talk with the Veteran you have chosen about

their experiences in the military. Use the Sample Questions below as a guide.

5. Write a 250-500 word essay about your veterans service to our country. Essays will be judged on content, spelling, grammar and neatness. Essays can be written in ink and in your own handwriting or may be printed.

6. Complete the Essay Contest Entry Form. Attach the completed form to your essay and submit it by October 20, 2007 to:
Veterans Day Parade of Milwaukee
Essay Contest
9311 West Keefe Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53222-2640



Sample Questions

Why did you join the military?

How old were you when you joined?

What branch of military service were you in?

Why did you join that branch?

What unit were you assigned to?

What did you do as part of that unit?

What was your rank when you enlisted?
When you were discharged?

How long were you in the service?

Where were you stationed?

Did you serve in war or peacetime?

If war, what war did you serve in?

What was it like being in the war?

Were you part of any major battles?
For example, Pearl Harbor etc.

Were you wounded? If so, how and where did it happen? How long did it take for you to recover?

Did you receive any medals or special service awards while in the military?

What is the most memorable experience of your military service?

Essay Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Name of School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

*All essays submitted become property of the Veterans Day Parade of Milwaukee, Inc.

*Photos may be submitted with the essay but are not required.

*All photos submitted become property of the Veterans Day parade of Milwaukee, Inc.

Veteran Information Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ E-Mail _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Branch and Unit of Service _____

War(s) served in: (if applicable) _____
