



I am pleased to announce that the Americanism Committee of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has selected the theme, "*Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag,*" for the 2011-2012 Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodge, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the national winners. This very important Patriotic Contest gives children in grades 5-6 and 7-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

On the national level winners in each division will receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Second-place winners receive a \$500 bond, and third-place winners receive a \$250 bond. Cranford Lodge #2006 will award a \$25 bond to the top three essayists in each of the 5-6 grade and 7-8 grade divisions.

The student's essay with the attached 2011-2012 Americanism Essay Contest Cover Sheet must be returned to the Cranford Lodge before January 10, 2012. The essay is not to exceed 250 words and will be judged based on Originality, Development of theme, Mechanics and Neatness.

Joseph Heuer, Exalted Ruler

GRAND LODGE
AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

VINCENT P. COMO
Essay Contest Administrator



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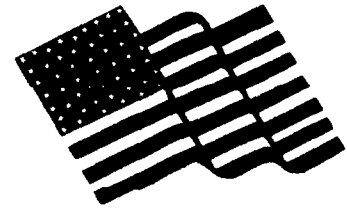
2011-2012 AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST COVER SHEET
(MUST be attached to each Essay)

"Why I Am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag"

Section 1 — to be filled out by student	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Division I: 5th or 6th Grade	(Click to Uncheck One)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Division II: 7th or 8th Grade	
School _____	
Student's Name _____	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age _____ Grade _____ Parent's Name _____	
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____	
Home Phone (_____) _____ Email _____ (used only to contact the winners)	
Send to Local Lodge no later than: _____	
Section 2 — to be filled out by Lodge Chairman	
Chairman's Name <u>Joe Heuer</u>	
Chairman's Home Phone Number <u>(908) 380-9161</u>	
Sponsoring Lodge Name & Number <u>Cranford Elks Lodge #2006</u>	
Address <u>951 Lincoln Ave - E</u> City <u>Cranford</u> State <u>NJ</u> ZIP <u>07016</u>	
Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the District Americanism Chairman by January 30, 2012 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)	
Section 3 — to be filled out by District Chairman	
Chairman's Name _____ District _____	
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____	
Chairman's Home Phone Number (_____) _____	
Select the top three essays from each division and send them to the State Americanism Chairman by February 15, 2012 or the date established by the State Chairman. (Top three only, do not separate as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)	
Section 4 — to be filled out by State Chairman	
Chairman's Name _____ State _____	
Chairman's Home Phone (_____) _____ Email _____	
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____	
Select the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners for your State and send the 1st place winner from each division to the contest Administrator, Vincent P. Como, by March 31, 2012.	



2011-2012



Americanism Essay Contest

Essay Theme: "Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag"

1. Eligible participants must be a student enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the normal 2011-12 school year, preceding June 30, 2012. **Deadline: Must be submitted to local lodge by January 10, 2012**
2. Essay length is not to exceed 250 words.
3. Essay must be typed or legibly printed in ink. Also, Essay must be submitted as written (or typed) by the entrant.
4. Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks Lodge administering the contest at his or her school or, if unknown, to Lodge nearest to home address of entrant.
5. Entrant must be identified on essay by name, home address, grade, school attended and sponsoring Lodge. (Lodge may enter Lodge information on essay.)
6. Judging criteria:
 - Originality: Avoid the use of trite or worn out words and phrases – 30 points
 - Development of theme: Stay focused on ideas and thoughts. Don't ramble – 40 points
 - Mechanics and neatness: Use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation – 30 points

There are two divisions for judging essays:

Division 1 (combined fifth and sixth grades)

Division 2 (combined seventh and eighth grades)

PROCEDURES FOR LODGE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select from submitted entries the top three essays from each division and send the six essays to the District Americanism Chairman by Jan. 30, 2012, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR DISTRICT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the top three essays in each division from entries submitted by Subordinate Lodges and send the six essays to the State Americanism Chairman by Feb. 29, 2012, or the date established by the State Association.

PROCEDURES FOR STATE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Select the first-, second- and third-place winners for the state from entries submitted by District Chairman. In addition, State Chairman forwards the first-place winners from each division to the Grand Lodge essay contest administrator. (Must be postmarked by March 31, 2012.)

SEND TO: Essay Contest Administrator Vincent P. Como, Grand Lodge Americanism Committee, 2042 NW 104th Avenue, Coral Springs, FL 33071-5870

National prizes for first-, second- and third-place winning essays in Division I and Division II will be presented to the home Lodge of the winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Austin, TX, July 1-5, 2012, as follows:

First place	\$1,000 U.S. Patriot Savings Bond
Second place	\$500 U.S. Patriot Savings Bond
Third place	\$250 U.S. Patriot Savings Bond