

Dear Clubwomen of Kansas,

First of all as the new Citizenship Essay Chair I cannot begin to fill the shoes of Karen DeCou or the others who have come before Karen, and I so appreciate your patience with me as I begin this new job.

Our topic for the 2022-2023 Citizenship Essay is the following:

What do you feel are the three most important issues affecting our nation and the world right now that should be addressed by our citizens and our government?

I have attached a flyer that you may print off to use to advertise the competition. If you notice, there are blanks for the name of the club, contact person name and contact information for you to fill in. I wanted to make the flyer as generic as possible so you could print it and use it if you wish.

There are some important changes to the competition:

1. Length is 750 words or less. ( We do not count the words, but there were some concerns from applicants that they felt they could not elaborate on topics enough with only 500 words.)
2. Essay topic is more lengthy and more specific. This was also a request from some of the applicants.
3. Deadline has changed. I need to have entries to me by Feb. 15. I prefer that they come by email but I am happy to take them by either email or regular mail. If you are using regular mail, I will honor a Feb. 15 postmark. I will be sending all entries to judges via email.
- 4. MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE. Every club is allowed to have two entries at the state level.**

State level judging schedule:

1. Entries will be sent to judges in February.
2. State winners will be announced by March 15. Winners will be invited to attend the state convention, and state commission chair will notify not only the winners but also the school counselors of the winners for purposes of scholarship awards assemblies.
3. ALL names of state level entries as well as the winners will be given to club presidents and to the Club Woman magazine for possible publication. To be a state level applicant is an honor that should be recognized for these young people.
4. No scholarship money is given directly to scholarship winners but rather sent to the higher education institution the winner has chosen to be used toward tuition. An essay winner has up to three years to inform GFWC of the intent to use the scholarship and where (school) scholarship money should be applied.
5. A \$500 scholarship is guaranteed for one essay winner. Runners-up prizes will be determined by available money within the contest fund.

I am right now in the process of recruiting judges. I am a retired history/language arts teacher, and I am recruiting people of a similar background. If you know of individuals who you feel would make good judges and who would have no prior knowledge of applicants, let me know. I would be happy to contact them.

How do you recruit essay applicants? Giving/posting information in local schools is always a great place to start. But sometimes, counselors are so busy they don't have time to announce all scholarship opportunities. As a reminder, the essay may be encouraged in schools, but it cannot be a school assignment. I found good luck also working with Scout troops, youth groups, our teen library board, HOBY students. You may have some smaller groups than schools that could benefit from the contest information. Also neighbors, relatives, etc. are important contacts as well. Whether the applicants win or not, participation in this competition looks wonderful on college admissions information as well as just being a great experience for college.

Thank you all for your help.

Please let me know any questions and concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Patrick

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316-794-2353 call or 316-841-7257 text