

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Overview

The Knights of Columbus sponsors the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest to encourage today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in 8th through 12th grade (public, private, parochial or home schools) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. The essay should be approximately 500-750 words, **explain how young Catholics can evangelize our faith to families and friends who have turned away from religion and encourage them to return to the Church and embrace the sacraments.** Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme – which should showcase creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic. For Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest resources, visit www.kofc.org/essay.

Links

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/resources/index.html?1tab=1tab3>
<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/community/catholic-essay-topic.html>

Timeline

Council Due Date — First week in December
District Due Date — December (Ask your District Deputy)
Diocesan Due Date — January 7, 2023

Action Steps

1. Identify a program chairman to oversee all action steps and delegate tasks. If coordinating with the parish or school, confirm pastor or principal approval with grand knight, then set up subsequent collaboration meetings.
2. Use the sample News Release (#10643) as a model to create and distribute a tailored release to local media.
3. Build public interest for the event! Promote the Catholic Citizenship Essay in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - a. Advertise at Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) meetings, in parish halls, and especially in local Catholic schools. Prominently display promotional posters (#4209).
 - b. Reach out and encourage Catholic School English teachers to use this as a class assignment.
 - c. Bulletin and Pulpit announcements
 - d. Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
4. Assemble a team of three or more judges (consisting of clergy, teachers, and other respected members of the Catholic community) to select winning submissions.
5. Make a formal presentation of winners and invite the media to attend! On the day of the presentation, be sure to wear Knights of Columbus apparel and enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
6. Send winning essays along with the **Entry Form (#4208)** to the next highest level for judging. Contact your District Deputy to learn where the winning essays should be mailed.
7. Following the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, update the community on the success of your program by amending the Catholic Citizenship Essay sample Winners Announcement (#10644) and distributing it to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
8. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms.
 - a. Immediately after your event is finished, complete the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)
 - b. At the end of the fraternal year, complete the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7)