



Essay Contest

Essay Topic:

"May The Forest Be With You"

CONTEST RULES

- 1) Open to **ANY** Marion County student in grades 4th through 12th and must be the work of the individual student.
- 2) Contestants must provide four (4) typewritten copies of their essay, double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11 inch plain white paper, with a one-inch margin.
- 3) Essay must be typed using a standard size 12 font (suggested: Times New Roman, Arial, Trebuchet MS or Corbel).
- 4) Essay must be a minimum of four (4) pages and maximum of five (5) pages in length. Your cover page and bibliography do not count towards the page requirement.
- 5) Entries are required to have a **COVER PAGE** which must include: Contestants Name, Address, Telephone Number, Name of School or Club, Teacher or Advisor Name, and Grade Level. Do **NOT** include your name or any other identifying information **on any other pages** of your essay.
- 6) Point deduction(s) will occur if rules are not abided by, or a contestant submits an essay after the deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Three competent and impartial judges will be selected. The judges' decisions will be final. A standard score sheet will be used based on the following criteria:

Content - Knowledge of subject; develops and follows theme; presents accurate facts; stimulates thinking, originality (no plagiarism). **50 points**

Composition - Innovative style (keeps your interest, clear message, easily understood by reader) opening-closing tie together; correct use of grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, proper paragraph transitions. **30 points**

Organization - Neatness, legibility, **correct cover page**, conformance to length. **20 points**

AWARDS

Winners chosen in two divisions: 4th thru 8th & 9th thru 12th

1st Place – \$100 2nd Place – \$75 3rd Place – \$50

DEADLINE

Essay must be (e)mailed or hand delivered no later than:

Thursday, December 21, 2023 – 4 p.m.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
2710 East Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, FL 34470



Mailed entries must be postmarked on or before the due date. Not responsible for essays lost in the mail.

Questions? Contact Marion SWCD at (352) 438-2475 or by e-mail: Ann.Bishop@marioncountyfl.org

Participation earns points towards Youth Conservationist of the Year