“Red, White and YOU” Writing Contest

In connection with Franklin’s 4th of July Week Festivities, the Franklin Fine Arts Council is sponsoring a writing contest for school-age youth inspired by this year’s parade theme “Red, White and YOU.”

**THEME**: The Franklin Fine Arts Council wants to know ways you can be involved in your community by asking the question: “How can I be the ‘You’ in Community?”

**ELIGIBILITY**: Open to any youth currently enrolled in school (kindergarten to 12th grade) who lives in the **Franklin and Valley Grove School District service areas**. Entries can be submitted in groups by school representatives or individually through a parent or other guardian.

**DIRECTIONS**: Students should answer the question “How can I be the ‘You’ in Community?” with an original work that meets the word limit provided for each age. Entries can be handwritten or submitted electronically and may include original artwork along with words. Authors are encouraged to be creative with their answers, which may be submitted in any written form, including descriptive essays, poetry, or short story.

All entries must be the original words of the author. Entry forms and an example cover page are available but are optional.

The name, age and grade, contact information (name and phone number of adult), and town of residence should be written or typed on a cover sheet. For judging purposes - **DO NOT WRITE OR TYPE CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE SAME SHEET/PAGE AS THE ENTRY.**

Electronic entries can be emailed to rbeith@franklinpa.gov.

Handwritten entries can be mailed or delivered to the Franklin Events/Marketing Coordinator office at 430 13th Street, Franklin, Pa 16323.

**DEADLINE**: Submissions received after **11:59 p.m., June 8, 2022**, or without a cover sheet may be considered for prizes.

**CATEGORIES**: The contest has three age categories based on grades. Each grade has a different word minimum and limit.

1. Grades 3 to 5 – 40 to 60 words.
2. Grades 6 to 8 – 75 to 150 words.
3. Grades 9 to 12 – 300 to 500 words.

**JUDGING**: Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of three judges who represent the Arts Council. Submissions will be assigned a number so that judges will not know the names of each essay’s author until the judging is completed. A top three in each category will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Originality/creativity (20 points)
2. Meeting word limit/minimum (5 points)
3. Clarity/Relevance of answer (15 points)
4. Grammar (10 points)

In the case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the highest score for Originality, followed by Clarity, Grammar (when applicable), and word limit. If a tie remains, the Franklin events coordinator will pick the winner.

Winners will be notified by phone by June 15, 2022.

**PRIZES**: Prizes will be given to the top essay in each category. For grades 3 to 5 and grades 6 to 8, the prize will be a one-day family pass to the Miller-Sibley Public Swimming Pool and a one-day pass to Crosby Beach at Two Mile County Park along with $20 to spend at the concession stand. For grades 9 to grade 12, the prize will be a $100 bill. Winning youth will also be invited to read their essays before the Libertyfest parade on July 2 in downtown Franklin. Recordings of the winners reading their essays will also be posted on the Franklin Events and Marketing Facebook page. (If needed or requested, a proxy can read the essays with or without the winner present.)

A press release announcing the winners will also be submitted to local media outlets. A group picture of the top three in each category will be taken prior to the readings.

**QUESTIONS**: Any questions about the contest, submissions rules, or prizes can be directed to contest chairs, Jill Harry (814-673-9191 or jharryconsulting@outlook.com) and Ashley Smith (814-657-1717 or ashley.smith1346@yahoo.com).