



2020 County Government Essay Contest

April is "National County Government Month" and the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia (CCAWV) is hosting our annual essay contest for 8th grade students across West Virginia.

There will be monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Student Winners. There will also be a monetary prize for the 1st Place Winner's Teacher to be used for classroom activities. The 1st Place Student and Teacher will each receive \$500; 2nd Place Student \$300; and 3rd Place Student \$200. We will also award \$50 for five Honorable Mention Students.

One of CCAWV's goals is to increase information and public awareness about county government and the office of County Commissioner. As an initiative of this goal we are excited to partner with West Virginia educators to encourage students to learn and write about their local county governing body, the County Commission. (Teachers, for your convenience, we are attaching our brochure about county commission responsibilities.)

Student participants are asked to type a 500-word essay on the topic, "***How does my county commission make life better for me?***" All entries must be emailed by 5:00 pm Friday, May 15, 2020 to qualify. Please see rules attached. Entries should be emailed to: jennifer@ccawv.org or for more information please contact Jennifer Piercy at jennifer@ccawv.org or at 304-345-4639. Winners will be announced by May 22, 2020.

Want to know more?

Take a class fieldtrip to a county commission meeting! Ask your county commissioners to come speak to the class! Find out what your county commission is working on in your county and encourage your students to write about it from the perspective of an 8th grader and why it matters to them. There are also a series of five informational videos on our website at www.ccawv.org that details the roles and responsibilities of county commissioners.

CCAWV County Government Essay Contest Rules 2020

The contest is open to all 8th grade students who are enrolled in a West Virginia public or private school.

The contest deadline is 5 p.m. on April 17, 2020 (see No. 8).

Each essay is limited to a maximum of 500 words and a minimum of 400 words and must address the following question: "How does my county commission make life better for me?" The essay must address specifically the county commission of the county in which the student resides.

Each student is limited to one entry.

Each teacher must completely fill out an official application form (attached). Please submit each entry individually as a Word or PDF document with a copy of the application form attached.

All entries must contain the student's name, email address, and the county name in which the essay is about.

All entries must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format and must be submitted by the student's teacher.

All entries must be emailed to jennifer@ccawv.org prior to 5 p.m. on May 15, 2020.

The winning essays will be announced by May 22, 2020.

The 1st place student will receive \$500, and the teacher who submitted the 1st place essay will receive \$500 to be used for classroom activities

The 2nd place student will receive \$300 and the 3rd place student will receive \$200.

The winning students and his/her teachers will be invited to a County Commissioners meeting in their home county to receive their awards.

The 1st place winning essay will be posted on the CCAWV website, (www.ccawv.org).

Essays will be judged on the following criteria: Understanding of the role of county commission; grammar and spelling; clarity and organization of thought.

By entering the contest, each student and teacher agrees to allow his/her name to be used in a news release announcing the contest winner in the event that their essay is selected as a winning essay. In addition, they agree to allow their photograph to be published in the CCAWV Newsletter and on the CCAWV Web site.

Entries will not be returned.

Official Application Form

CCAWV 2020 County Government Essay Contest

County_____

Teacher's Name:_____

Teacher's Email Address:_____

Name of School:_____

School Telephone #:_____

School Mailing Address:_____

Submitting Student's Name:_____

Submitting Student's mailing address (if available):

(Teachers must submit a copy of this completed form with each student entry.)