2015 Historical Expository Writing Contest

Sponsored by:

The Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission

The contest will be open January 13, 2015 to March 27, 2015

Eligibility Requirements

Any fourth-grade student in the Amphitheater School District or attending any school in the Town of Oro Valley is eligible to participate. Students with family members currently serving on the Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission are not eligible.

Awards

Every contestant will receive a certificate of participation. There will be an award valued at $50 (first place), $25 (second place), and $15 (third place) given to contest winners. The top three winners will be presented with their award and certificates at the Settlers Day Spring Festival at Steam Pump Ranch on April 11, 2015 and will be recognized at an Oro Valley Town Council meeting later that month.

The Essay

Historical expository writing takes place during a time in history. Your essay must be related to one of the 2015 Essay Topics provided. There are many resources available on the internet as well as local libraries, museums and cultural sites to help guide you in your writing.

2015 Essay Topics

1) How did the Hohokam people create a culture in our hostile desert environment? Describe how they adapted the natural resources here to meet their needs. (Food, shelter, beliefs, etc.)

2) A. Water is vital to life in the desert. How was it used by the following: The Tohono O'odham, the early settlers, ranchers and the army. How did usage change over time?
   B. How did the availability of steam pump water affect the lives of the same people?

3) Early settlers contributed to the development of our area. Choose a family to research. Tell us their story, their life and times and why they were significant to the history of the community in which you live.

Contest Regulations

All essays must comply with the following contest rules before submission:

- No literary form other than an expositoy essay will be accepted.
- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking.
- All sources must be property cited.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Each contestant must complete and attach a student entry form.
- Each essay will be a maximum of 750 words in length.
- Entries may be typed or neatly written.
- The title of the essay, but NOT the author's name, MUST appear on the top of all pages of the essay text.

Send a copy to:

Lynanne Dellerman
Cultural Resource Manager
Town of Oro Valley
680 W. Calle Concordia
Oro Valley, AZ 85704

- If you wish to send your essay via e-mail, send it to: ldellerman@orovalleyaz.gov
- Entries must be postmarked on or before contest due date on March 13, 2015.
- **Essays will not be returned to the author**; they become property of the Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission may reprint the essays in publications, online or use them at workshops. Appropriate citations will be given to the writers.

Judging

Oro Valley Historic Preservation Commission members will judge the essays using the following criteria:

I. Historical Accuracy (1-20 points)_____

Is the essay historically accurate?

II. Writing (1-20 points)_____

Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, neatness.

III. Research (1-20 points)_____

Does the essay show creativity in the use of Oro Valley or Tucson landmarks and locations?

Each of the three categories will be rated 1 through 20, with 20 as the highest score. The sum of the three categories will then be used to reach the essay's final score.