

Wisconsin State Council



Knights of Columbus

Enclosed is your information for conducting the

## RESPECT FOR LIFE ESSAY CONTEST



**If One Heartbeat Means Life,  
What Do Two Heartbeats Mean...**

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## **COUNCIL GUIDE RESPECT FOR LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**

Theme materials will be provided to the councils. Appropriate flyers and information should be provided the teachers by the council. Suggested information and sources are available upon request - start early to allow time for arrival!

Essays are to be written in October-Respect for Life Month. A new theme is distributed annually through District Deputies and State Council Newsletters. Flyers with information on the theme subject should be given to teachers for distribution to the students. A good source is the NCCB Pro-Life Secretariat, Respect for Life Program, 3211 Fourth Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194. Information for other sources is available from the Respect Life Coordinator.

We recommend three judges; as a group should have knowledge of: A. English composition; B. Contest rules; C. Respect for Life issues. (Pro-Life teachers are good judges.)

Winners are selected from each grade 7 through 12. The essay in each grade, with the highest score (65 and up) is the winner. Scores under 65 are automatically disqualified — though it may be the highest or the only one in the grade. Send winning essays to the Diocesan Program Coordinator for your Diocese. The student's 'Essay Submission Form' is to accompany the essay. Submit **ONLY ONE** essay from each grade to the Diocese.

### **PROMOTION**

**MAY:** Is a good time to make school contact. Generate interest; give the teacher the summer months to include the contest in the coming school year's agenda. For parochial grade schools contact the principle or the Director of Religious Education (DRE) or pastor. Through ministers of other faiths, invite their young people to participate — providing the same information. Contact public schools. It may be necessary to explain that the topic (Respect for Life) concerns social justice and civil rights. All schools, all religions, or those with no religion, and "home schooled" students are all invited.

**JULY:** IMPORTANT: Order the theme materials (flyers, etc.) so they will arrive by the time they are needed. Sometimes 4 to 6 weeks are required for delivery.

**AUGUST:** Definitely by the first or second week of school, make contact with the schools. Provide each teacher with a copy of pages — Student Information Sheet, with theme, rules and scoring rates; the Student Essay Submission Form. (Teachers can copy them as needed for the'r students.) BE SURE to have the current theme inserted in the space provided for "theme" in the copy you give the teacher! Also supply theme materials for the students.

**SEPTEMBER:** Work with teachers to give them any assistance or information needed. It's good to publicize the contest (even in late August) —local newspapers, radio, etc. (as a news item). Invite all students, who may not otherwise be aware of the contest, to participate.

**OCTOBER:** Essays to be written Oct. 1 to 31. Repeat publicity early in October when the essays are to be written. A letter to the editor may be adequate.

**NOVEMBER:** Immediate judging at council level. Send winners to Diocesan Program Director by November 20. Communicate a list of council winners for the media and if permission has been granted by the author and one parent, one or more of the winning essays may be printed.

**DECEMBER:** Diocesan winning essays to reach State Chairman by December 10.

### **LEVELS OF COMPETITION**

#### **COUNCIL:**

First place winners at the Council level will be forwarded by the Council to the Diocesan level for judging there. It is possible to have 6 winners — one from each grade—7 through 12 inclusive. Judging is to be done as soon as possible after October 31.

#### **DIOCESAN:**

Submit first place winning essays to the Diocesan Program Director before November 20. He is responsible for arranging judging at the Diocesan level.

**STATE:**

The Diocesan Program Director is to send the essays winning first and second place in the diocese to the State Respect Life Essay Chairman no later than December 10.

**AWARDS****COUNCIL:**

"Certificates of Appreciation" will be provided to the Council for all students participating in the contest. Each council is responsible for the awards at the local level. Some ideas might include "Rose for Life" appliqués or pins; "Precious Feet" pins; other awards or plaques. It is recommended that the award be not more than the cost of a \$50 savings bond.

**DIOCESE:**

First place: a \$75 savings bond and an award certificate in a leatherette folder. Second place: an award certificate in a leatherette folder. These awards will be provided by the State Respect for Life Committee.

**STATE:**

First place: a \$200 savings bond and an award certificate in a leatherette folder. Second place: a \$100 savings bond and an award certificate in a leatherette folder. These awards, too, are provided by the State Respect for Life Committee.

**GRAND KNIGHTS - RESPECT FOR LIFE DIRECTORS**

On the following page is a suggested letter that may be used, by the Council, to introduce the Respect for Life Essay Contest to the School Principal, Teacher, Director of Religious Education, or Pastor. It is felt that personal contact is more readily accepted, and that initial contact for the October writing of the Essay be made as early as the month of May. This gives teachers a better chance to work it into their fall schedule.

If the letter is used, be sure to type it on Council letterhead.

With the letter, or with your personal contact, include a copy of page 5 and page 6 - the Student Information Sheet and Student Submission Forms so they may be copied as needed by the school for students wishing to participate. The only change from year to year is the THEME. To affect this, make one copy of page 5; type the theme on a sheet of paper, cut it so it fits the place provided, and then tape it in place for making your copies for the school. Also, it is advisable and easier to complete the council portion of the Student Submission Form before making copies.

If the letter is mailed, follow up with a personal contact soon, as suggested in the directions under PROMOTION. (Actually it is better to "hand-deliver" the letter and make personal contact to immediately discuss the contest with your contact.)

When the contest has been completed, thank the principal, teachers and those involved for participating.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

Name of Principal/Teacher or Director of Religious Education  
Name of School  
Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear

Knights of Columbus Council No. \_\_\_\_ invites all students in grades 7 through 12 to compete in our statewide annual Respect for Life essay contest. We encourage you to offer this program to them as elective or as a class assignment.

Essays are to be written during the month of October. Copies of Student Information Sheet and Student Submission Forms will be supplied. Awards will be presented at three levels, Council, Diocesan and State.

The essays are to be picked up by or delivered to Council by November 1 or 2, for local judging.

Winning essays will be forwarded for judging at the Diocesan level. The first and second place Diocesan winners will be competing at the State level.

This contest can be incorporated into virtually any curriculum — civil rights, social justice, morality, sexuality and individual inalienable rights as included in the Constitution of the United States of America. Themes will vary and may deal with the "Right to Life from conception to natural death" and may be applicable to abortion, euthanasia, and/or assisted suicide. The Essay program may be assigned as a class assignment or as an elective assignment.

The students are to be free to enter the contest or not, as they choose. In council, diocesan, and state judging, scores under 65 will be automatically disqualified. Religion, religious affiliation or lack of it, is not considered in judging. Judges do not know the name of the student, their religious affiliation or even their school. The essay is identified by title and grade only— after judging it is identified by name of the student.

You may contact me for further information or assistance.

The Knights of Columbus of Wisconsin hope our community will actively participate in this statewide contest. It is good for the students, the community and the state and nation.

Sincerely yours,

Your Name  
Respect for Life Director Knights of Columbus  
Council \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph: \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

# RESPECT FOR LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

## STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

### ELIGIBILITY

Students in grades 7 through 12 of all schools, private and public or home, of all religious denominations - or no religious denomination, are invited to submit an essay related to the theme. Competition is with others of the same grade level only.

### DEADLINE

Respect for Life essays are to be written in October and submitted to the Council Contest Chairman by November 1.

### THEME -----

**ATTENTION CONTEST CHAIRMAN:** A new theme statement will be developed each year and is forwarded to you. Copy this, CUT OUT THE NEW THEME AND TAPE IT HERE. Then make final copies.

### RULES

1. The approximate length of essay, in words, for the various grade levels shall be:  
Grades 7&8 - 250 to 350  
Grades 9&10 - 300 to 450  
Grades 11&12 - 450 to 600
2. All essays shall be written or typed, 1 1/2 or double-spaced, on 8 1/2 x 11 plain white paper using only one side of the paper. Ruled white paper may be used for hand written essays. Please, no colored paper. Black or blue ink preferred — colored paper and other inks do not copy well and are difficult to read.
3. NO IDENTIFICATION - neither name nor grade - may appear on the essay. Every essay MUST have a title. This title is to be shown on the essay and on the "Student Essay Submission Form" which is to be attached to each essay. It is preferred that the theme will not be used as the title.
4. ONLY original work of the participant may be submitted. Quotations and citations of fact may be used but expressions of your ideas in your own words is important.
5. Judges will use the following criteria to score the essay:

Expression of Idea	40 pts
Factual Correctness	10 pts
Originality	10 pts
Relationship to Theme	20 pts
Grammar, spelling, etc.	20 pts
6. Any essay scoring under 65 points will be disqualified at any level of competition.
7. The Knights of Columbus may want to publish some essays in bulletins, newsletters, local papers. or other publications. The "Student Essay Submission Form" contains a "consent to publish" section. Please, be sure to indicate "Yes" or "No" and sign. If you agree to publication, please have one parent sign also.

### AWARDS

Competition is in your grade level only. Awards listed will be for winners in each grade.

**COUNCIL:** These awards are decided by the local council in your area and will be announced by the Contest Chairman or Grand Knight of the council.

**DIOCESAN:** First place: A \$75 savings bond and an award certificate in a leatherette folder. Second place: An award certificate in a leatherette folder.

**STATE:** First place: A \$200 savings bond and an award certificate in a leatherette folder. Second place: A \$100 savings bond and an award certificate in a leatherette folder.

Winners will be those, in each grade, with the highest score from 65 and up. All awards are subject to the discretion of the judge and may be withheld on valid cause.

**RESPECT FOR LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**

**STUDENT SUBMISSION FORM**

Submit this form with your essay: Provide ALL information requested.  
(Each of the contestants must receive a copy of this form)

Title of essay \_\_\_\_\_  
(MUST be shown here as it appears on your essay.)

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT TO PUBLISH**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that my essay may be used for publication - Yes  No  (Check one)

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Signature

**THANK YOU for participating in the Knights of Columbus Respect for Life Essay Contest.**

.....  
THIS SPACE BELOW IS FOR USE BY THE LOCAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL.  
(Supply this information before making copies)

Council #: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_



**SUMMARY OF  
RESPECT FOR LIFE PROGRAM DEADLINES**

**RESPECT FOR LIFE ESSAY CONTEST**

(Ideally, teacher contact should be made before school closes in the spring or at the latest the first or second week after opening in the fall.)

**October 1st to 31st:**

Respect Life Essay Contest - Judging at the Council level follows immediately after October 31.

**November 20:**

Council essay winners should reach Diocesan Program Coordinators no later than this date.

**November 20:**

Diocesan Program Coordinator must have the "Council Report of Participants" by this date.

**December 10:**

Diocesan first and second place essays must have reached the State Respect for Life Essay Chairman for State judging.

**RESPECT LIFE FUND DRIVE**

**July 1:**

Contributions received from this date to the following June 30 credit toward Council's 100% participation award for current council year

**October:**

First Sunday in October is Respect for Life Sunday and the date for the fund drive.

**May 15:**

Deadline: Respect for Life Grant Application

**June 30:**

Deadline to qualify for the Respect Life Council Goal for 100% Participation Award.

**NOTE:**

Awards will be presented at the annual Diocesan Meetings in August and September.