

ADMIRAL CRISTÓBAL COLÓN HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by the *Order of the Founders of North America, 1492-1692*

ELIGIBILITY

This contest is open to all students who are US citizens or permanent residents, and who are in their junior (11th grade) or senior year (12th grade) attending public, parochial, or private (including accredited home schools) high school during the contest year. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year. The contest winner is prohibited from participating in following years' contests.

RULES

The essay contest is for an original researched paper written in English. The topic of the essay shall be on a "Benefit to History Stemming from the European Colonization of North America."

The essay must have five parts: A) a title page, B) essay pages, C) bibliography, and D) contestant's biography. These four parts must be on separate pages. The contestant's name may only appear on the title page. No reference to the contestant's name may be part of the essay pages, bibliography or biography. Submissions that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.

The title page must include the title of the essay, contestant's name, address, telephone number, email address, and word count. In addition, the title page must include the name, address, and telephone number of the high school in which the contestant is enrolled, and the contestant's grade level.

The essay pages must have a minimum of 500 words and not exceed 700 words (excluding title page, footnotes, bibliography, and biography). The first page of the essay must include the title of the essay. (The contestant name must NOT appear on these pages as they are separated from the title page and distributed to the judges for grading to prevent possible grading bias). The essay must conform to the MLA style guidelines, be typed double-spaced, and no bindings, special covers or graphics are permitted. The essay must be written entirely by the contestant, and no part may be plagiarized, or the essay will be immediately disqualified. The bibliography may contain references from the Internet, but must contain at least three non-Internet references.

The contestant's biography is limited to one page. Topics to be included in the biography are academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, hobbies, and plans for college.

NOTE: The contest committee requires the electronic submission of the essay. The submission must be in Portable Document Format (.pdf).

JUDGING

The Grand Viscount General of the *Order of the Founders of North America* shall appoint three judges from the membership of the *Order of the Founders of North America*. The Essay Committee Chairman shall provide the essays (NOT including the title page) to the judges, and shall not disclose the names of the contestants to the judges until the winner is selected by the judges.

Essays which meet the requirements above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria:

Content supporting the mission of the Order of the Founders of North America (40%)

Clarity of thought (20%)

Organization (20%)

Grammar and spelling (20%)

In the event of a tie, the biography page will be judged to break the tie.

Participants in this contest agree that the interpretation of rules and decisions of the *Order of the Founders of North America* and its judges must govern without reservation, and that the decision of the judges is final.

TIMELINE

All submissions must be in the hands of the Essay Contest Chairman by **June 1st**. E-mail submissions must be *received* by the chairman by the deadline.

The Essay Contest Chairman will notify the winner by early **July**, and will send an acknowledgement of participation for the other contestants. The winning essay will be published in the *Order of the Founders of North America* newsletter.

WINNER

The winner of the essay contest will receive \$1,000.

PUBLICATION

The winning essay will be submitted for publication in the *Order of the Founders of North America* newsletter. Participants in this contest agree that their essay may be published in the *Order of the Founders of North America* newsletter, in a newspaper, and on the *Order of the Founders of North America website*.

CONTACT

Questions regarding specific rules, and essay submissions may be directed to the Essay Contest Chair:

Mrs. Karen Dodd

E-mail: kdodd@appellate-law.com

What is the Order of the Founders of North America?

The mission of this Order is declared to be historical and educational, and it shall endeavor to perpetuate the memory of the leaders of the Old World who sponsored the discovery, exploration and settlement of the New World, and the explorers and settlers who came to North America during the critical period of 1492 to 1692, and laid the foundations for the development of the new continent of North America; to recognize and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire the descendants and the community at large with a more profound respect for the industry and sacrifices of our founding forebearers.

To encourage historical research in relation to the discovery, exploration and settlement of North America; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual leaders, explorers and settlers, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the sites of the founding of North America with memorials; and to celebrate the anniversaries of prominent events of the first two hundred years following the discovery of the New World in 1492.

To encourage research and writing about the period 1492-1692 through essay contests and awards; to promote genealogical and historical seminars and educational travel to Europe to visit the homelands of our founders. The order shall be non-partisan, in conformity with regulations regarding 501(c)(3) organizations.

www.O-F-N-A.org