

# Americanism Essay Contest Information

## 2023-2024



Alabama Elks Association

## **“What the Bill of Rights Means to Me”**

### **Competition Rules**

1. Essay participants must be in the **5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade**
2. Essay length is not to exceed 300 words.
3. Essay must be legibly printed in blue or black ink or typed in black.
4. Each student's essay pages must be stapled, no binders, no folders, and no paper clips.
5. Each student's essay title sheet must include the following: Name of the Sponsoring Elks Lodge, School Name, Student's Name, Grade, Class Period, Sponsoring Teacher's Name.
6. Essays are due to the local Lodges **on or before Friday, January 12, 2024.**
7. Judging Criteria:
  - **Originality:** Avoid use of trite or worn out words and phrases = 30 points
  - **Development of Theme:** Focus on your ideas and thoughts = 40 points
  - **Mechanics and Neatness:** Proper Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuation = 30 points

### **Awards**

★ All students submitting essays to Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge 1738 will receive a certificate for participating in this patriotic activity.

★ First place winners in each grade division will be awarded a Commemorative USA Coin Set and advance to the District Level of the competition.

★ Winning essays from each division in the Alabama Elks Central District will compete with the South and North District for state awards. State winners from each Division will receive a USA Coin Set and certificate. The Alabama state winners will next advance to the national level of the competition. Winners at this level of the competition will receive from Grand Lodge for each grade the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$500, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$250. Winners will be announced July 2023.

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