

# Monmouth County Historical Commission

## ESSAY CONTEST

The Monmouth County Historical Commission is pleased to announce an essay contest to promote student interest in historic preservation and family history

### CONTEST THEMES:

- 1) WRITE ABOUT A HISTORICAL PLACE THAT YOU HAVE VISITED AND HOW THAT PLACE HELPED YOU TO APPRECIATE OUR COUNTY AND/OR NATIONAL HISTORY.
- OR*
- 2) WRITE ABOUT AN EVENT THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY (YOUR GRANDPARENTS' GENERATION OR EARLIER) AND TELL WHY.

### ELIGIBILITY & RULES

1. Entry is open to all Monmouth County fifth grade students.
2. Depict the above themes in about 300 words describing the place or family event and how it impacts your appreciation of Monmouth's and Nation's history or your family history.
3. Students must write legibly in ink or type on one side of letter sized paper only. The back of the page must contain the student's name, age, school address, school telephone number and teacher's name. Do not place the student's name on the front page since the contest is judged anonymously. All submissions should include a title header about the subject matter.

### TEACHERS: PLEASE ENCLOSE A LIST OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS' NAMES.

4. **DEADLINE - ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 3, 2023.**
5. Mail Entries to: **MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HALL OF RECORDS ANNEX, 2ND FLOOR  
1 EAST MAIN STREET  
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728  
Attn: Kaitlyn Peterson**
6. All entries will become the property of the Monmouth County Historical Commission.
7. Places need not be major historical sites but should have some importance to history.
8. **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING – WRITING SKILL, ACCURACY AND NEATNESS.**

## AWARDS

Awards will be presented as follows:  
*1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE - \$100 Book Store Gift Card*  
*2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE - \$75 Book Store Gift Card*  
*3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE - \$50 Book Store Gift Card*

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.  
Winners will be notified by May 2023 with a request for permission to use the student's name and image in County press releases.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Fifth Grade Faculty

FROM: John Fabiano, Executive Director

RE: 2023 Essay Contest

DATE: October 19, 2022

Considering the number of required topics in the Social Studies curricula over the span of primary and secondary education, how often will a student get an opportunity to reflect on their own environment? The Historical Commission presents Fifth Graders with an opportunity to visit a historic site and write about their experience visiting one or, alternatively, to compose a short essay about a family ancestor's life. We hope you choose our Essay Contest as a class project.

There are many historic sites locally in the County and New Jersey in general. Not only the more well-known, such as Sandy Hook, Twin Lights, Monmouth Battlefield, and Longstreet Farm, but lesser-known places in your towns or even neighborhoods. Examples include churches and cemeteries, old mills, or a historic home related to a notable person? The "hidden" historic site could be a place that many do not know about but represents a significant historic event. The optional family history topic is popular. Students often write very moving accounts about their own families' experiences.

Students should be creative since originality counts. The assignment should be informative as well as fun. We hope this assignment helps stimulate your students' interest in history. Please feel free to contact me at [John.Fabiano@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:John.Fabiano@co.monmouth.nj.us) should you have any questions about this Contest.

Thank you for your interest.