LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

2027 Essay Contest Rules

TOPIC: "Every Weekend Tells a Story: The Importance of Louisiana Fairs and Festivals**"**

Highlight the diversity of Louisiana fairs and festivals while showing how each one reflects a different part of the state's identity and heritage. From Cajun traditions and small-town parish fairs to seafood festivals, music celebrations…every Louisiana festival tells a unique story of heritage, pride, and community.

Rules and Regulations:

1. Essay MUST be at least one (1) page in length.
2. Name of student MUST NOT be written or typed on the essay.
3. Entry Form (see attached) MUST be attached to entry with a paper clip, NOT STAPLED. Entries will not be accepted without entry form attached.
4. Any essays that do not meet the requirements listed here will not be judged.
5. Essay MUST be typed using Times New Roman font in size 12.
6. Requirements for essay content, structure, and other criteria are outlined in the attached rubric. Contestants should use this rubric to guide their writing.
7. Essay must be in the hands of the Chairman ***no later than January 10, 2027***.
8. Essay prizes:
   1st: $150
   2nd: $100
   3rd: $75
9. All essays become the property of LAFF. The first-place winners may be published in a collection.
10. The categories:
    A: Grades 6 – 8
    B: Grades 9 - 12

Each participating LAFF member organization may submit **no more than three (3) of its top essay entries** for consideration in the LAFF Essay Contest. Each organization is responsible for reviewing your local entries and selecting the three essays it considers best qualified to advance to the LAFF competition. All LAFF member organizations should use the designated essay topic at the local level to conduct their own elimination process.

Submit Essays To:

Sydney Yerby
4550 Queen Elizabeth Court
Apartment 281
Alexandria, LA 71303
318-308-8767
districtdirector6@laffnet.org

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

2027 Essay Contest Entry Form

STUDENT NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

GRADE:_____

PHONE:_____

PARENT'S NAME:_____

SCHOOL NAME:_____

FAIR/FESTIVAL:_____

LAFF Essay Rubric *Judge #_____* *Essay # _____*

Directions: Your essay will be judged based on the following criteria. Use this rubric as a guide when writing your essay.

Score Key

- **4 = Excellent** – Exceeds expectations
- **3 = Proficient** – Meets expectations
- **2 = Developing** – Partially meets expectations
- **1 = Beginning** – Needs significant improvement

Category	Criteria	Judge's Score
Focus & Details	**1:** Topic and main ideas are unclear. **2:** One topic is present, but main ideas are only somewhat clear. **3:** One clear, well-focused topic; main ideas are clear but lack detailed support. **4:** One clear, well-focused topic; main ideas are clear and supported by detailed, accurate information	____ /4
Organization	**1:** No clear introduction, structure, or conclusion. **2:** Introduction states topic; conclusion is included but weak. **3:** Introduction states topic and gives overview; conclusion is included. **4:** Introduction is inviting and clearly states the topic; provides an overview; information is logical and relevant; conclusion is strong.	____ /4
Voice	**1:** Author's purpose is unclear. **2:** Author's purpose is somewhat clear; limited audience awareness; limited knowledge/experience. **3:** Author's purpose is somewhat clear; some evidence of audience awareness; knowledge/experience is evident. **4:** Author's purpose is very clear; strong evidence of audience awareness; extensive knowledge/experience is evident.	____ /4
Word Choice	**1:** Limited vocabulary; clichés or jargon distract from meaning. **2:** Words communicate clearly but lack variety or impact. **3:** Uses vivid words but may feel forced or inaccurate at times. **4:** Uses vivid, precise words/phrases; word placement feels natural and accurate.	____ /4
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics & Spelling	**1:** Sentences are awkward/repetitive/difficult to follow; many errors interfere with understanding. **2:** Sentences mostly similar in length/structure; several errors interfere with understanding. **3:** Most sentences well-constructed with some variety; few errors that don't interfere with understanding. **4:** Sentences are well-constructed with varied length/structure; no errors in grammar, mechanics, or spelling.	____ /4
	TOTAL	____ /20