

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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Constitution Day Essay Contest

The County Board of Education is celebrating Constitution Day by hosting a county wide essay contest. The Constitution Day Essay Contest is open to all entering 9th grade students attending Santa Cruz County Schools. This includes entering 9th grade students in home school programs. "How did the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights develop our nation?" This is one of the theme choices and the first place winner will win \$500; second place will win \$300; and third place will win \$200. Each of the top three winners will also receive books about the U.S. Constitution. KSCO Radio is the event sponsor and has invited the winners to read their essays live on the air.

Winning essays will be on display at the Santa Cruz County Fair in the Education Department during the Fair, September 13th through the 18th. Thereafter, they will be on display at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz.

Beginning in 2005, a federal law required all schools receiving federal funds to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution every year on or near September 17th, the anniversary of the signing of our country's founding document. At the beginning of 2011, the County Board of Education Trustees established a Constitution Day ad hoc committee and launched the contest to inspire youth to learn about the U.S. Constitution and to get to know their Founding Fathers.

Sponsors supporting the cash prizes and volunteers for the event include: Cabrillo Host Lions, Watsonville Rotary, Dr. Nancy Bilicich, Supervisor Caput, Francisco Diaz, County Superintendent Watkins, Deputy Superintendent Wall, Trustees Marani/Levine/Dilles/Winslow/Hinde/Locatelli/Sales, and Ken and Jeanine McCrary.

Contest rules can be obtained on the COE web site:

http://www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/ed_services/constitution_day.html

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CONSTITUTION DAY ESSAY CONTEST RULES

Choose one of the following Contest Themes:

How did the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights develop our nation?

Is there a particular part of the U.S. Constitution that means something special to you?

Participants Receive:

Pocket Constitution, name recognition in a display located in the Education Department at the Santa Cruz County Fair, September 13th through the 18th, and name recognition in the Santa Cruz Sentinel (space permitting).

Winners Receive:

1st Place - \$500.00, a copy of the The 5000 Year Leap, a copy of The Making of America.

2nd Place - \$300.00 a copy of the The 5000 Year Leap, a copy of The Making of America.

3rd Place - \$200.00 a copy of the The 5000 Year Leap, a copy of The Making of America.

All winners will be invited to read their essays live on KSCO Radio.

Winning essays will be on display at the Santa Cruz County Fair in the Education Department, September 13th through the 18th, and thereafter in the County Office of Education at 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Contest Rules:

The Constitution Day Essay Contest is open to all entering 9th grade students attending Santa Cruz County Schools. (This includes entering 9th grade students in home school programs in Santa Cruz County.)

Entries must be typed and double spaced on white 8 1/2 x 11 paper.

Limit of 1200 words.

Entry must be in your own original work. Words from the U.S. Constitution or other sources must be in quotes or marked with a footnote.

Title your essay.

Do not put your name on the essay. Include a cover sheet with your essay title, the first line of your essay, your name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Mail your submission to: CBE CONSTITUTION DAY, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or
E-mail it to: Trustee Locatelli at legalgina@aol.com.

Entries must be received by or before August 31st.

Entries that do not follow submission rules will be disqualified.

Winners will be notified by September 13, 2011.

No entries will be returned.