



Essay Contest

Bernards Township 250th Anniversary



Contest Summary/Purpose

- The Bernards Township 250th Anniversary Task Force is launching this essay contest in order to celebrate our town's rich history. We are hoping to promote deeper community involvement in the celebration and to provide community members an opportunity to express their appreciation of, and love for, their community.

Contest Guidelines

- **How to enter:**
 - All essays must be submitted with a completed, signed application. DO NOT write your name anywhere on the essay itself.
 - K-2 essays: Deliver your application and essay to Town Hall by the deadline.
 - All other age groups: You may either hand deliver your essay to Town Hall *or* submit it electronically at: <http://www.bernards.org/EssayContestSignUp/Default.aspx>.
 - All submitted essays must be accompanied by a completed application form. (Click [HERE](#))
 - All application forms must include an electronic participant signature, as well as Parental Consent if the applicant is under the age of 18, and must be submitted by April 1, 2010.
- Each participant may submit only ONE essay. DO NOT write your name on the essay itself.
- Entries must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or an equivalent font with a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.
- All essays/poems submitted become the property of Bernards Township and will not be returned. All essays/poems may be reproduced, printed, published, and otherwise used by the Bernards Township 250th Anniversary Task Force in the course of its official functions.
- **Eligibility:** The Bernards Township 250th Anniversary Essay contest is open to all current or past residents of Bernards Township in the appropriate categories. Municipal employees and their families as well as any Bernards Township 250th Anniversary Task Force members and their family members are NOT eligible to participate.
- **Plagiarism:** With the signature (electronic or in print), and with the parental consent, you certify that the work submitted is yours, or your child's, original work. Any work submitted that is found to have been plagiarized will be automatically disqualified.
- **Additional Terms:** By participating, applicants agree to the official rules, and the decision of the Bernards Township 250 Task Force judges, which shall be final in all respects; and to the release of all submission materials to Bernards Township. Prizes may not necessarily be awarded.

Selection and Scoring Guidelines

- All eligible application submissions received by the above deadline will be reviewed by a panel of judges, who will be appointed by the Bernards Township 250th Anniversary Task Force and may include teachers, administrators, committee members or other appropriate community members. The panel will evaluate the application submissions using the Essay Contest Scoring Criteria (see [scoring criteria](#)). The judges' scores will be combined. The winners will be selected and notified by phone on or about May 1, 2010. The decisions of the judges are final.

Categories

1. **K**
Prize: \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond and inclusion in Time Capsule
Writing Prompt: *"I love my town because...."*
Format: A visual representation
2. **1-2**
Prize: \$100.00 U.S. Savings Bond and inclusion in Time Capsule
Writing Prompt: *"I am proud to live in Bernards Township because..."*
Format: Short Essay (75-150 words)
3. **3-5**
Prize: \$100.00 U.S. Savings Bond and inclusion in Time Capsule
Writing Prompt: *Over Bernards Township's 250 year history, the schools have changed significantly. Looking back on the past 250 years, write about how the schools have changed and how they have stayed the same. Do you think the changes have been beneficial for Bernards Township and the community? Why or why not.*
Format: Short Essay (75-150 words)
4. **6-8**
Prize: \$250.00 U.S. Savings Bond and inclusion in Time Capsule
Writing Prompt(s): *In 1960, Bernards Township turned 200 years old. What change(s) in the past 50 years have impacted Bernards Township the most, and why?*
Format: Essay (200-300 words)
5. **9-12**
Prize: \$500.00 U.S. Savings Bond and inclusion in the Time Capsule
Writing Prompt(s): *Bernards Township has persevered through many challenges in its 250 years, including wars, economic crises and political struggles. What do you think will be the next greatest challenge(s) for Bernards Township, and how will it be resolved?*
Format: Essay (300-500 words)
6. **Adult:**
Prize: Current Adult Residents (over the age of 18, not currently in secondary school)
Writing Prompt(s): Essay included in time capsule
Format: *What makes the community of Bernards Township unique?*
300-500 words
Adult
Prize: Former Adult Residents (over the age of 18, not currently in secondary school)
Writing Prompt(s): Essay included in time capsule
Format: *What has made the community of Bernards Township unique?*
300-500 words
Adult:
Prize: *Poem Option:* Current or Former Adult Residents (over the age of 18, not currently in secondary school)
Writing Prompt(s): Poem included in time capsule
Format: *What makes the community of Bernards Township unique?*
Poem

