

Children's Writing Contest

ROA Children's Writing Contest

Enter the ROA Children's Writing Contest!

Deadline for submission: June 15, 2026

In celebration of the 250th Birthday of America, share your story as a military connected child, describing how your family's military service protects the USA.

Contest Eligibility

- Must be child or grandchild of an individual currently serving or having served honorably in the U.S. military in the Active or Reserve/National Guard component, to include: Army/Air Force/Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard/Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service/National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration/Space Force.
- Contestants must be between 10-14 yrs old on the date of the essay submission. Winning entries will be judged in two separate age categories (10-11) & (12-14).
- By participating in the contest, entrants agree to public display of their entry materials and the terms and conditions outlined below.

Submission Requirements

- Contest Entry start date: April 1, 2026 Deadline: June 15, 2026
- Length: No more than 500 words.
- Name: Name of entrant (as it will be published) must be at the top of the entry.
- Title of Article: Title of the essay must be at the top of the entry.

[Submission Form](https://forms.gle/Rk1q7eCUYGTxf8b2A)

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Criteria for Evaluation

- Entries will be reviewed by the ROA Family Readiness Support Selection Committee.
- All entries must be the original work of the child without the direct assistance of another person or artificial intelligence.
- Ratings will be on a 5-point scale in areas of:

1. Originality
2. Creative appeal
3. Verbal effectiveness
4. Accuracy of information
5. Grammar, spelling and punctuation

Awards

The first-place awardees in each age category will receive \$1000. The second-place awardees will receive \$300. The third-place awardees will receive \$200.

- Video interviews with winners (optional).

See official list of all rules and regulations in separate attachment. Please open the Submission Form to complete the required information. A section is also provided for submission of the essay.

Official Rules for ROA Children's Writing Contest

- 1. Selection Committee:** The official Selection Sub-Committee will be appointed by the ROA Family Readiness Committee Chair. The names of the entrants and sponsors will be redacted from the essay before being sent to the selection committee. The Family Readiness Support Committee reserves the right not to award any prizes if it is determined that no entries are of sufficient quality to merit selection. If a potential winner does not respond within ten (10) business days after ROA's first attempt to contact the potential winner, or if correspondence is returned undeliverable, the potential winner forfeits all rights to be named as winner or receive a prize, and an alternate winner may be chosen.
- 2. Prizes:** First Place in each age category = \$1000; Second Place in each age category = \$300; Third Place in each age category = \$200. Prizes are non-transferrable and cannot be substituted by the winner. The Family Readiness Support Committee may substitute a prize of equal or greater value at its sole discretion. The decision of the FRSC Selection Sub-Committee is final.
- 3. License/Grants of Rights:** By entering the entrant/sponsor attests that its submission is an original work of the entrant that will not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party, and gives ROA the non-exclusive worldwide right to reproduce, distribute, sell, perform, display and license the entry; and the non-exclusive worldwide right to use the winner's name and likeness in connection with the essay or this Competition. All entries submitted become the property of ROA and will not be returned; however entrants retain full copyright to their entries.
- 4. Odds of winning:** Chances of winning will vary depending on number of entries received.
- 5. Laws and Regulations:** This contest is governed by U.S. law, and all federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. By entering all entrants agree that the Competition will be governed by the laws of Washington, D.C., the courts of Washington D.C. have exclusive jurisdiction, and that Washington, D.C. shall be the venue for any dispute or litigation relating to or arising from the Competition. Void where prohibited by law. No purchase is necessary to win.
- 6. Conditions of Participation:** By participating, each entrant agrees to these Official Rules and the decisions of the ROA Family Readiness Support Committee, and releases and discharges ROA and the competition sponsor, subsidiary and affiliated entities, and each of their respective officers, directors, members, employees, independent contractors, agents representatives, successors and assigns (collectively "Sponsor") from any and all liability whatsoever in connection with this promotion, including without limitation legal claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages, demands or actions of any kind (including without limitation personal injuries, death, damage to, loss or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy or other intellectual property rights including any moral rights, defamation, or portrayal in a false light (collectively "Claims")). Except where prohibited, acceptance of a prize constitutes a release by any winner of the Sponsor of any and all Claims in connection with the administration of the promotion and the use, misuse or possession of any prize. All entries become the property of the Sponsor (Reserve Organization of America - ROA) and will not be acknowledged or returned.

Sponsor is not responsible for errors, or for lost, late, or misdirected mail or email, or telecommunications or hardware or software failures, including by reason of infection by computer virus, tampering, unauthorized intervention, force majeure including any pandemic, or technical difficulties of any kind.

7. **Privacy Policy/Data Collection:** COPPA Information provided by entrants in connection with this Competition is subject to Sponsor's privacy policy, available at ROA.org which complies with the children's online privacy act and will be used solely in conjunction with this Competition and will not be shared with any third party.
8. **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act:** The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA") requires that online service providers obtain parental consent before they knowingly collect personally identifiable information online from children who are under thirteen (13). We do not knowingly collect or solicit personally identifiable information from children under thirteen (13) without obtaining verifiable consent from that child's parent or guardian ("Parental Consent"), except for the limited amount of personally identifiable information we need to collect in order to obtain Parental Consent ("Required Information"). Until we have received Parental Consent, we will only use Required Information for the purpose of obtaining Parental Consent. If you are a child under thirteen (13), please do not attempt to register for or otherwise use the Services or send any personal information about yourself to us before we obtain Parental Consent, except for the Required Information in the context of the Parental Consent process. If we learn we have collected personal information from a child under thirteen (13) (beyond the Required Information) without our obtaining Parental Consent, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. If you believe that a child under thirteen (13) may have provided us with personal information (beyond the Required Information) without our obtaining Parental Consent, please email us at roainfo@roa.org.
9. **Opt-Out Option:** Individuals may elect to opt out of receiving future contest mailings by contacting ROA via phone at 202.479.2200 (local) or 800.809.9448 (toll-free).
10. **Sponsor Information:** The Sponsor is the Reserve Organization of America (ROA), located at 1 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20002.