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# *CARING FOR MY COMMUNITY LOOKS LIKE*

***CITIZENSHIP WRITING CONTEST***

# CITIZENSHIP

*Running the program  
at your school*



**Shawnee Mission  
Area Council**

**PTA®**

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*SMAC/SMSD PTA Workshop*

# WELCOME

*Dee Wright*

*SMAC/SMSD PTA Citizenship Chair*

*What we'll cover:*

- *What is Citizenship? Why do it?*
- *Getting Started, Covering the Basics*
- *Helpful Hints, getting information*
- *Student Recognition*



# WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?



*The Citizenship Writing Contest is a  
signature KANSAS State PTA program*

- *It provides an opportunity for students to think about citizenship and what it means*
- *Each year has a theme*
- *This year's theme is "Caring For My Community Looks Like..."*

# CITIZENSHIP CATEGORIES

***GRADES 5 THROUGH 12***



**POETRY**




**ESSAY**



# GETTING STARTED

- *START EARLY 😊*
- *Review local leaders guide*
- *Form a committee*
- *Check out the SMAC website*  
*([smac-pta.org/citizenship](https://smac-pta.org/citizenship))*
- *Review materials*
- *Facebook group for collaboration*



It's easy to implement the Citizenship program at your school - click below for a guide to making it happen.

**LOCAL LEADERS GUIDE**

**2020-2021 DATES:**  
**NOVEMBER 2:**  
**LOCAL LAUNCH**  
Launch the contest in your school

**DECEMBER 7:**  
**LOCAL DEADLINE**  
Student entry due date for your school

**JANUARY 11:**  
**DISTRICT DEADLINE**  
Turn in your winning school entries to Dee Wright (location TBD)

**FEBRUARY 15:**  
**STATE DEADLINE**  
District winners entered in state contest (by Dee Wright)

**FEBRUARY 15, MONDAY**  
Citizenship SMSD/SMAC PTA Awards Ceremony and Reception with the Board of Education (BOE) (5:30, before the BOE meeting)

Are you a student wanting to enter the contest?  
Here are the rules and entry form:

**OFFICIAL RULES**

**STUDENT ENTRY FORM**

Questions? Contact Dee Wright, SMAC VP Cultural Arts, at [christlwright@aol.com](mailto:christlwright@aol.com)

**CITIZENSHIP CHAIRS CLICK HERE**

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!**



**PTA Citizenship Chairs:**  
Join the SMSD Citizenship conversation on Facebook

# KEY DATES

**NOVEMBER 2**  
Local Launch

- *Launch the contest in your school*

**DECEMBER 6**  
Local Deadline

- *Collect entries*
- *School Judging*
- *Celebrate in your school*

**JANUARY 11**  
District Deadline

- *Turn in winning entries to Dee Wright*
- *District Judging*
- *District winners notified and invited to Award Ceremony*

**FEBRUARY 15**  
Award Ceremony

- *Student recognition and reception*
- *(State winners announced in March)*

# PULLING IT OFF IN YOUR SCHOOL

## PLAN

- *Check school calendar, start after Reflections*
- *Plan in reverse to the January 15 District turn-in*
- *Budget for activities & promotional materials*
- *Line up your judges*



## PROMOTE

- *Create a flyer for school newsletters and websites*
- *Talk to teachers, share the theme*
- *Morning announcements & media releases*
- *Social media*
- *Class competitions*



# STUDENT ENTRIES

*See rules in Program Packet,  
some highlights include:*

- *New, original work relating to the theme*
- *Work is judged by relevance to the theme over technique or grammar*
- *Poetry 50 - 500 words; Essay 200 – 1000 words*
- *Students who are physically challenged may dictate to another person*
- *Students for whom English is not their first language may submit entries in their own language*
- ***Note:** Please also add the School Principal's name and email to the form*

## PRO TIPS:

- Be sure that entry forms are filled out completely and LEGIBLY
- Make sure entries have the correct word count
- Consider DIGITAL entry forms and entries (pdf format)



# JUDGING THE ENTRIES

- *Tap into pro judges – retired teachers, local pros, area colleges*
- *Distribute student work and Program Judges Form*
- *Blind judging*
- *NO TIES!*
- *Confidentiality*



# CELEBRATE YOUR ENTRIES

- *Announce awardees*
- *Pictures with permission (yearbook photo?)*
- *Celebration event*
- *Certificates/awards*

## District awards





# ADVANCEMENT

- *First place in each category*
- *Entry forms and essays*
- *District collection Friday 1/15*
- *G-Drive location for digital sharing (HIGHLY ENCOURAGED)*
- *Board of Education event to formally recognize winners (1/12/21)*
- *State winners announced in March*

District ceremony







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