

General Participation Rules

1. Theme

The theme for the 2020-2021 Kansas PTA Citizenship Program is "I Will Make the World A Better Place By..." Only new pieces of literature inspired by the theme are acceptable.

2. Student Eligibility through Local PTA's

Students must participate in the Citizenship Program through local PTA/PTSA in good standing or through the Kansas PTA Golden Oaks PTA. Parent groups not affiliated with the Kansas PTA Association are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the local and council PTA/PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the Citizenship Program.

3. Eligible Grades

Students in grades 5 through 12 may participate in the Citizenship Program.

4. Categories

Students may submit an entry in poetry and or essay. The Kansas PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

5. Children with Disabilities

PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Citizenship Program does not have a special category for students with disabilities. Further information regarding students can be found in the Poetry and Essay Rules.

6. Deadlines

Each student must submit their entry by the deadline established by their local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the Council, Region and State deadlines. These entries are judged and the selected entries are forwarded to the next level of judging by the appropriate deadline.

7. Judging

All entries are judged on originality, organization, support of thought and relevance to the theme. Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no conditions may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of the entry. All judges' decisions are final.

8. Award Recipient Notification

All local, council and regional PTA/PTSA's are responsible for notifying students if their entry has received an award at their level of judging. The Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman will notify in writing the state level award recipients.

Poetry and Essay Rules

Student must adhere to the general participation rules as well as following Poetry and Essay Rules.

1. The entry must relate to the current Citizenship Program theme.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student portrays the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

2. Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage student creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed.

3. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.

Plagiarism is defined as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own; use without crediting source (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarized>).

4. All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Participation Form.

Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situation where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write eligible, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

5. Poetry entries must be at least 50 words but may not exceed 500 words.

Essay entries must be at least 200 words but may not exceed 1000 words. Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer. Number all pages. Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling.

6. Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8 ½ x 11 inches in size.

Entries that are multiple pages must be submitted on one side of the paper only. Write the student's name on the back of each page in case pages become separated. Students may have their entry typed by another person as long as the original work or copy of the original work is attached.

7. Students who are physically challenged may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.

Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the students' original work.

8. Students for whom English is not their first language may submit entries in their own language.

An interpretative translation must accompany the entry. Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.