



2010 National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week *Foundations for Life Contest*

The Contest

The *Foundations for Life* Contest is open to high school students residing in the school boundary areas of Emory Grove Center (includes Journey and Phoenix II), Gaithersburg, Northwest, Watkins Mill, and Quince Orchard.

- Goal:** To provide high school students the opportunity to read profound quotations, think about the meaning (reflect,) discuss and write down their thoughts (express,) and incorporate the essential wisdom of a quotation into their life strategies (commit.)
- Size:** Font no smaller than 11-point. Minimum margins .5”
- Format:** Entry form on one side with all fields completed and essay either on the back of the entry form or attached separately.
- Entries due:** 4 p.m. on Friday, September 24th
- Send or deliver to:** *Foundations for Life* Contest
City of Gaithersburg, Community Services Office located in the Wells/Robertson facility, which is across the parking lot from City Hall, (31 S. Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877).
- Awards Ceremony:** For principals, writing teachers, Winners and Honorable Mentions, and their families on Wednesday, October 20th from 6:30pm-to 8:00pm at the Casey Community Center, 810 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.
- Questions:** Call Shanthi Srinivasachar, Community Services 301-258-6395 x 3 or ssrinivasachar@gaithersburgmd.gov
- Entry judged:** Essays are screened by members of the Montgomery Village Rotary Club; finalists judged by the City’s CHARACTER COUNTS! Educational Enrichment Committee on the basis of: *how well the student’s thoughts are expressed about a piece of essential wisdom; the efficacy of the student’s plan to incorporate this into his/her life strategy; spelling; and connection with the 6 Pillars of Character.*
- Teachers notified:** Appropriate school staff will be notified on Monday October 11, 2010. We request that sponsoring teachers to notify the FIVE Winners, FIVE Honorable Mentions, and their families. We will send you a “Parental Information” form letter on the awards ceremony to send home with these students.



Entry Form for the City of Gaithersburg 2010 National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week *FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE* CONTEST

Co-sponsored by the City of Gaithersburg
& the Montgomery Village Rotary Club

This essay contest is to provide high school students the opportunity to read essential wisdom, reflect upon it, and write about in a way that COMMITS TO an ethic they have learned.

Guidelines:

Contest is open to high school students in the boundary areas of – Gaithersburg, Emory Grove Center, Northwest, Quince Orchard, and Watkins Mill.

Use *this* entry form or obtain this form from www.gaithersburg.md.gov after September 1, 2010.

All entries must utilize at least 11-point font with margins no smaller than .5” on all four sides. Entries will not be returned to you.

Entries will be judged blindly, with your name on **THIS** side of the entry form, and the essay on either the other side of the or as an attachment.

Entries are due by Friday, September 24th at 4 p.m. to the Community Services (CS) office, across the parking lot from City Hall, which is at 31 S. Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. (The CS offices are in the Wells/Robertson House Facility, a Victorian with a picket fence. Office hours – 9 a.m.-5 p.m., M-F.) **Winners and Honorable Mentions will be notified by Monday, October 11th via fax AND email to their principals AND teachers.**

Contact Shanthi Srinivasachar at ssrinivasachar@gaithersburgmd.gov or (301) 258-6395x3 for questions about the contest.

The *Foundations for Life* website is www.charactercounts.org. The City’s website is www.gaithersburgmd.gov (application is under CHARACTER COUNTS, National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2010).

Screening/Judging:

Screening and initial judging of entries will be done by Montgomery Village Rotary Club members. Final judging will be done by the CHARACTER COUNTS! Educational Enrichment Committee of the City on the basis of: ***how well the student’s thoughts are expressed about a piece of essential wisdom; the efficacy of the student’s plan to incorporate the wisdom into his/her life strategy; spelling; and connection to the 6 Pillars of Character.***

Awards Ceremony:

For **the principals, writing teachers, Winners, Honorable Mentions, and their families** there will be an awards ceremony on **Wednesday, October 20th** from 6:30pm-to 8:00pm at the **Casey Community Center, 810 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877).**

The **FIVE** Winners will be asked to read their entries and will receive a **\$250 cash prize.** (One-fourth of cash prize must be designated to a charity of choice.) The Winners will also receive framed, desk topped copies of their entries and Certificates of Recognition.

The **FIVE** Honorable Mentions will receive foldered, desk-topped copies of their entries, Certificates of Recognition, and a **\$100 cash prize.** (One-fourth of the prize must be designated to a charity of choice.)

Excerpts from the Winning essays will be published in the *Gazette* and copies of top **TEN** entries will be featured in the National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week display at the LakeForest Shopping Center until the end of October 2010.



Your name _____ Evening phone # _____

Your address _____

Your school _____ School phone # _____

Your grade level _____ Your email address _____

Sponsoring teacher's name _____

Email of sponsoring teacher _____

You **must** use the other side of THIS form (or a copy of it) to enter.
Do NOT put *YOUR NAME* on the OTHER SIDE of this form!! ENTRIES MUST BE TYPED.

The Rotary 4-Way Test of the Things We Think, Say or Do:
Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Six Pillars of Character
Trustworthiness (honesty, integrity, etc.) **Fairness** (open-mindedness, etc.)
Respect (tolerance, politeness, etc.) **Caring** (sharing, compassion, etc.)
Responsibility (excellence, self-restraint, etc.) **Citizenship** (obey laws, etc.)