



21st Annual CHARACTER COUNTS! Poster Contest

Theme: *"Caring and Citizenship in my Community"*

The CHARACTER COUNTS! Poster Contest is open to all **Elementary and Middle School** students in the greater Gaithersburg area. Each school selects its **four best posters** for submission. The City of Gaithersburg's Educational Enrichment Committee will judge the posters on:

- **Integration of one of the two pillars in this year's theme. The theme should appear on the poster. (15 points)**
- **Originality (10 points)**
- **Spelling and grammar (5 points)**

Required Size: 11" x 17". Please adhere to THIS size. Larger posters will be disqualified.

Required Format: The artwork should appear on one side, with the student's name, grade, school, principal's name and art teacher's name and email address on the reverse.

Submission Instructions: Deadline is Monday, December 5, 2016, 4 p.m. Please deliver to Community Services Offices, 1 Wells Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (located in the Wells/Robertson House facility, the Victorian home across the parking lot from City Hall) or mail to Community Services, City of Gaithersburg, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Notification of Results: December, 2016. Five winners and five honorable mentions will be selected from amongst the elementary school submissions and five winners and five honorable mentions will be selected from amongst the middle school submissions. Results will be emailed to the schools. We request that principals/teachers notify the Winners, Honorable Mentions and their families.

Prizes and Awards Presentation: Winners and honorable mentions will be presented with awards at a ceremony to take place in the second half of the 2016-2017 school year. Families, principals and teachers will be invited. The ten winners will each receive a **\$35 gift card and a Certificate of Recognition**. The ten honorable mentions will each receive a **\$15 gift card and a Certificate of Recognition**.

Certificates of Participation: The City would be happy to provide all participating students with Certificates of Participation. Please submit the number of certificates needed by your school when submitting your posters.

For more information contact the Community Services Division at **301-258-6395**, communityservices@gaitthersburgmd.gov, or visit the City's website at gaitthersburgmd.gov.