

THE 2010 HARRY L. DECKER HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

The Harry L. Decker Historical Essay Contest seeks to inspire fourth grade students living or attending school in Frederick County to learn more about local history through original research and writing. The contest's theme changes from year to year. The contest is named in honor of local historian Harry L. Decker.

HARRY L. DECKER

In addition to the historical research and writing he did for Potomac Edison during his 45 year career with the company, Harry Decker wrote numerous articles that appeared in area newspapers and magazines. He also taught a course in local history at Frederick Community College, presented lectures to local organizations, promoted historical events, and served as a president of the Historical Society. Mr. Decker passed away in 2000. The essay contest was established to honor his many contributions to our local heritage.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Contest entries must be received by **March 26, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Frederick County Archives and Research Center. (The Research Center is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Entries also may be mailed to Duane Doxzen, HSFC, 24 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701, or e-mailed to ddoxzen@hsfcinfo.org (pre-formatted) **but must be received by March 26 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Winners will be notified on May 3, 2010. All other students will be notified by mail after that date.
- Awards will be presented on May 13, 2010 at a combined Student Contest Awards Presentation.

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to all fourth grade students residing in or attending school in Frederick County, Maryland.
- Students should conduct original research and write an essay about one of the subjects from the approved subject list provided by these guidelines.
- The essay should provide historical background information while also explaining the subject's significance to the county's heritage.
- The essay must be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words.
- The essay must be accompanied by a title page. The student's name, name of the student's teacher, and name of the student's school should appear in the lower right corner of the title page. The student's complete home mailing address and contact information (telephone number or e-mail) should be written in the lower left corner of the title page.
- The essay must be accompanied by a list of sources used. Preference in judging will be given to those essays that utilize a variety of information resources (for example books, websites, newspapers, interviews, etc.), specifically primary sources.
- All entries must be received by the deadline. Late or incomplete entries will not be considered for awards.



RESEARCHING YOUR TOPIC

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the Historical Society's Frederick County Archives and Research Center located at 24 East Church Street in Frederick to conduct their research. The Research Center has information about each of the subjects listed below. While students may utilize any appropriate resources and research facilities (such as the Frederick County Public Library), **only the Research Center is prepared to assist with research on all topics.** Admission is free to students (and those assisting them) and volunteers and staff are on-hand to assist researchers. The Research Center is a non-circulating facility.

THEME & APPROVED SUBJECT LIST

This year's theme is **Frederick County businesses 50 years or older.** Information about the following subjects is available at the Frederick County Archives and Research Center, 24 East Church Street in Frederick. (Telephone: 301-663-1188; e-mail: library@hsfcinfo.org).

Ausherman Builders
Cozy Restaurant
Frederick Chamber of Commerce
Frederick Mutual Insurance Company
Frederick Underwriters
Hartman Roofing
Keeney & Basford Funeral Home
McClellan Veterinary Clinic
Montevue Home
Reliable Junk Company
Schaden Veterinarians
Southern States
Wastlers' Barber Shop
Zimmerman's Florist

Bowers Lumber
Davis Photography Studio
Frederick Memorial Hospital
Frederick News-Post
Gladhill Furniture Company
Hemp's Meat Market
Landis Jewelry
McCutcheons
Mount Olivet Cemetery
Rosebud Perfume Company
Sharpe's Florist
U.A. Lough Memorials
WFMD Radio

Colonial Jewelers
Frederick Brick Works
Frederick Motor Company
Frederick Trading Company
Goodwill Industries
H. Frank Foland & Sons Concrete
Lilypons Water Gardens
M.J. Grove Lime Company
N.Z. Cramer & Son
Routzahn's
Shipley's
Vindibona Nursing Home
Whitesell Pharmacy

AWARDS

The writers of the top six essays will be awarded \$100 each.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The essays will be judged by a panel of independent judges based upon the following criteria: 1. Originality of the essay; 2. Use of genuine student language; 3. Diversity of sources; 4. Grammar; and 5. Neatness.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contest Coordinator: Duane Doxzen, HSFC Assistant Director
ddoxzen@hsfcinfo.org
301-663-1188



THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
FREDERICK
COUNTY

24 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
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The HSFC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Frederick County's important heritage.