



Operation Recognition Essay/Scholarship Contest

The Sacramento County Office of Education is accepting submissions for an essay contest designed to honor local military veterans. The contest is held in conjunction with the annual Operation Recognition program, through which belated high school diplomas are awarded to qualifying U.S. veterans and Japanese American citizens whose education was interrupted due to wartime circumstances. The winning high school student will receive a **\$500 college scholarship**, courtesy of **SAFE Credit Union**. Essays must be received by **April 21, 2017**.

The 2017 Essay Theme is **“Why You Cannot be a Passive Patriot.”**

Rules:

- Each submission **must** include a cover letter containing the author's name, home address, name of high school, entrant's phone number, e-mail address, and a paragraph summarizing his or her college and career goals.
- Essay length: 400-500 typewritten words. All entries must be typed and double-spaced, with no pictures or graphics. Essays not meeting the word count requirement will be eliminated. The essay title or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the essay **MUST BE** the original work of the student making the submission.
- Contestants will be judged based on their essay alone. Winner **must attend** the Operation Recognition diploma ceremony at 6:30 p.m., at the Sacramento County Office of education (10474 Mather Boulevard, Sacramento) on **May 16, 2017** to read his or her essay, join in honoring the diploma recipients, and receive the scholarship award letter from a SAFE Credit Union representative.
- Contestants may enter only once.

Who is Eligible?

- Contestants must be high school juniors or seniors currently attending public high schools in Sacramento County.

Judging Criteria:

- Essays will be judged on how well the student understood, developed and presented the theme. A positive approach is recommended when expressing viewpoints.
 - Knowledge of the Theme: 25 points
 - Theme Development: 25 points
 - Clarity of Ideas: 25 points
 - Structure/Spelling/Grammar: 25 points

Deadline:

- The completed essay and cover letter must be received by U.S. mail or hand-delivery at the Sacramento County Office of Education by **April 21, 2017**. **Online submissions will not be accepted.**

Entries should be sent to:

Tim Herrera
Operation Recognition Scholarship Contest
c/o Sacramento County Office of Education
P.O. Box 269003, Sacramento, CA 95826-9003

For questions: therrera@scoe.net

