

# MEMORIAL DAY YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

~Open to all Martin County, FL area middle & high school students~



**Submit your entry!**

**\$500—FIRST Place**

**\$200—1st Runner-Up**

**\$100—2nd Runner-Up**

**A TOTAL OF 6 PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!**

**ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2018**

*Sponsored by:*



**Forest Hills**  
Community Outreach  
*Quality Healing Experiences  
for Our Community*

Forest Hills Community Outreach is a program of:  
Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Memorial Park & Crematory  
2001 SW Murphy Road, Palm City, FL 34990  
[foresthillspalmcityflorida.com](http://foresthillspalmcityflorida.com)

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# 2018 Essay Contest Announcement & Official Rules



Forest Hills Community Outreach announces its annual Memorial Day Youth Essay Contest. The contest is open to all Martin County, FL area middle and high school students. The purpose of the contest is to create an educational awareness involving youth in area communities so that they can learn more about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

## Official Rules

- 1. Eligibility:** Entrants must be middle or high school students enrolled in the Martin County, FL area School District. Entries from private, charter and home schools will also be accepted.
- 2. Format:**
  - Entries must be presented in the format of a Personal Essay, between 500-525 words, using a double-spaced 12-point font and must include a bibliography (not included in the word count).
  - Word count must be included on first page of essay entry in upper right hand corner.
  - Essay content must be printed on single sheets of paper, no double-sided printing.
  - Entries must be accompanied by a letter size sheet of paper, attached but not stapled to essay containing the following 'typed' information: contestant's full name, name of school, grade level (ex: 8th grade; 10th grade), student ID number, parent/guardian email address or parent/guardian postal mailing address, parent/guardian daytime phone number, and name of parent/guardian who will accompany contestant at the Monday, May 28, 2018 Essay Contest Award Ceremony. **IMPORTANT: student name must NOT be included anywhere on the essay itself.**
- 3. Topic:** "The True Meaning of Memorial Day." Students are encouraged to discuss the essay theme with teachers, parents and friends. The essay should be positive and clearly focused on the theme. Teachers and parents may check essays, but the content of the essay must be that of the student.
- 4. Research:** Research is essential in creating a quality essay. Please cite library resources, Web URLs with access dates, and personal interviews.
- 5. Bibliography:** The bibliography must cite at least two references. Entries that do not include a bibliography will be disqualified.
- 6. Essay Entries:** Must be submitted and received by March 31, 2018. Entries become the property of Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Memorial Park & Crematory. Essays should be mailed to: **Forest Hills Funeral Homes Palm City, 2001 SW Murphy Road, Palm City, FL 34990, ATTN: Community Outreach Coordinator, Karina Danessi.**
- 7. Evaluation Process:** Winning essays will be selected on the following basis:
  - >25 points—Originality and creativity
  - >25 points—Compliance with the assigned topic
  - >20 points—Factual accuracy
  - >15 points—Grammar and organization of content
  - >15 points—Scope of research
- 8. Awards:** \$500 will be awarded to one each middle and high school first place winner; \$200 will be awarded to one each first place runner-up at both middle and high school levels and \$100 will be awarded to one each second place runner-up in both middle and high school levels. Each winner and his/her parent/guardian must be present to receive their prize. Winners will be notified prior to May 28 Essay Contest Award Ceremony. Winners will be asked to read his/her winning essay during the May 28 Memorial Day Patriotic Remembrance & Award Ceremony.

**Final judging and selection of winners will be made by a committee selected by Forest Hills Community Outreach. Decision of judges are final. Results will be announced at the May 28, 2018 Essay Contest Award Ceremony at Forest Hills Memorial Park, 2001 SW Murphy Road, Palm City, FL 34990. Winning essays will be featured on the Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Memorial Park & Crematory website, social media page and other related print and electronic media.**



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