



# 2024-'25 ESSAY CONTEST RULES

For Michigan 8th Grade Students Contest runs September through November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## HONOR YOUR PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO BY WRITING AN ESSAY ABOUT THEM!

### TOPIC: "MY PERSONAL MICHIGAN HERO"

There are people in your life who inspire, help, teach, or guide you. In your community, you are surrounded by Michigan people making a difference. Which one is a hero to you? Who is it that you admire and would like to show gratitude to?

We invite you to write a 500-word essay about your personal Michigan hero. This person should be someone you personally know — someone who lives in our state and who has encouraged you, taught you important lessons, and helped you pursue your dreams. You could write about a family member, teacher, coach, neighbor, friend, local business person, or anyone in your community.

#### TIPS:

- Be honest.
- Stay positive.
- Use humor.
- Be personal.
- Most of all be original in your writing.

Your essay will be very meaningful to them and act as a lasting tribute. We can't wait to read your essay!

## THE AWARDS

### STUDENT

- Top three essayists from each school will receive an honor certificate.
- Each school's 1st place winner will receive a commemorative pen.

### SCHOOL

- Each school receives a plaque for their first year of participation, with their school's 1st place student's name engraved on it. The plaque remains on permanent display in the school so future winners' names can be added.
- The 1st place essay from each school will be entered into the statewide competition from which the top 10 essays will be chosen.

### STATEWIDE

- If a student from your school is selected as a statewide finalist, the school and student will be notified in April.
- The 10 statewide winners will be invited to attend an awards day program in May.
- A teacher and two adults may accompany each winner at the awards day program in May.
- During our 56th contest year, the top ten student winners will receive a cash award of \$1,000, a plaque, and medallion.
- The top 10 winners' schools will each receive a \$1,000 check compliments of the student winner and an additional \$500 if the school has been sponsored by a Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

## THE RULES

- The contest begins September 2024 and ends November 8, 2024.
- A maximum of 10 entries from each school will be accepted for judging.
- Entries must be submitted by the school, not by the individual students, and must be submitted to the Farm Bureau Insurance email submission link no later than **November 8, 2024**.

- The contest is open to any 8th grade student in Michigan attending a state education facility.
- The essay must be based on the topic **"My Personal Michigan Hero."**
- The essay must be typed and double spaced.
- Retain a copy of your submitted essay. Farm Bureau Insurance cannot return or make copies of essays.
- Essay must be the student's own work and may be up to 500 words long.
- Essays are judged on originality, creativity, quality of writing, how well the information is conveyed, and accuracy. It is important to stay within the parameters of the theme.

### IMPORTANT

- **Student name, home address, school, and school address must appear at the top of each page of the essays.**
- **Essays must be submitted as a Word document only.**

## GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN WRITING!

*Note: School essays must be submitted at one time by the teacher – no straggler essays will be accepted.*



## REGISTER HERE:

- ★ [FarmBureauInsurance.com/AmericaAndMe](https://FarmBureauInsurance.com/AmericaAndMe)
- ★ or scan QR code!

