LIONS INTERNATIONAL

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ESSAY CONTEST RULES

PEACE ESSAY 2026-2027

Harmony in Humanity

Your club can sponsor visually-impaired students in the Lions International Essay Contest!

The contest is open to students who are considered visually impaired according to their national guidelines, and will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on November 15, 2026. Eligible birthdates are November 16, 2012 through November 15, 2015. One grand prize winner will receive an award and US$5,000.

The contest theme is "Harmony in Humanity."

- Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest. The contest may be sponsored in a local school or organized, sponsored youth group, or individuals may be sponsored as well.
- Essays must be no longer than 500 words, submitted in English, typewritten in black ink and double spaced.
- Each essay must be submitted with a completed entry form. Essays submitted without completed entry forms will be disqualified.
- Only one entry per student per year, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
- Essay entries cannot have already been published.
- Any essays found to be plagiarized will be disqualified, and the student will be prohibited from entering any future Lions competitions.

DEADLINES

November 15, 2026 – Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning essay to the district governor. **Note:** A participating club should notify its district governor in advance of sending an entry and confirm the date of the district judging at that time.

December 1, 2026 – Postmark deadline for a club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry directly to Brand & Creative at Lions International.

December 1, 2026 – Postmark deadline for a district to send one winning essay to the multiple district council chairperson. A district not belonging to a multiple district must send its entries directly to Brand & Creative at Lions International (postmarked by December 1).

December 15, 2026 – Postmark deadline for a multiple district to send one winning essay to Brand & Creative at Lions International.

February 1, 2027 – Club presidents of international winners will be notified on or before this date.

PROMOTE YOUR CONTEST WINNER

- Raise awareness of the Peace Essay Contest and celebrate your contest winner on your social channels. Download social media graphics and customizable templates, **Peace Contest Social Media Kits** are available at lionsclubs.org/peaceessay. Tag your posts! #peaceessay
- Prepare a press release on your club's letterhead announcing the winner. Download the **Peace Essay Winner Press Release** template at lionsclubs.org/peaceessay. Send a photograph of the contest winner and their winning essay with the press release to the editor/reporter of the features or community section of your local newspaper(s). Keep a copy of the essay for the club and student's records.
- If your club or the school is hosting a special award ceremony for the winner, work with your school contacts to invite your local media to attend.
- Update the media and your social channels if your club's entry advances to the multiple district or international judging levels.

Participants accept all responsibility for late, lost, misdirected or illegible entries. Entries sent with insufficient postage will be disqualified. Lions International is not responsible for entries damaged, destroyed or lost during the judging process. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned. They become property of Lions International upon receipt. Essays (partial or in their entirety) cannot be used without written permission from Lions International.

In consideration for the opportunity to enter the Essay Contest, participants agree to allow Lions International to use their names and photographs for promotional and publicity purposes. An international grand prize winner is not eligible to receive subsequent prizes in future Lions International Essay Contests sponsored by Lions International. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges and Lions International.

Lions International may cancel the contest without notice at any time. The contest is void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law.

Mailing address:
Essay Contest, Brand & Creative
Lions International
300 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842
Email: peaceposter@lionsclubs.org
(The words "Lions Essay Contest" must appear in the subject line of the e-mail.)

ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Please type or print clearly. All information and signatures are required.

1. STUDENT INFORMATION

Winner's Name _____

Essay Title _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____
Day/Month/Year

School _____ Grade _____

Phone* _____

Email _____

Student's Street Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City, State, Country _____ Postal or Zip Code _____

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature _____

2. LIONS CLUB INFORMATION

Club Name _____

Club Number _____ District Number _____

President Name _____

Phone* _____ Work Phone* _____

Email _____

Street Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City, State, Country _____ Postal or Zip Code _____

Club President's Signature _____

3. DISTRICT INFORMATION

District Governor _____

Phone* _____ Work Phone* _____

Email _____

District Governor's Signature _____

4. MULTIPLE DISTRICT INFORMATION

Multiple District Council Chairperson _____

Phone* _____ Work Phone* _____

Email _____

Council Chairperson's Signature _____

***Include area code in the U.S. or country and city codes outside the U.S.**