

GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE
ROBERT R. HINKLE
Chairman



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2021-2022 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

“What does it mean to love your country?”

I am pleased to announce that Members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee have selected the theme, **“What does it mean to love your country?”** for the 2021-2022 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Atlanta, GA in July 2022. This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

Nationally, first-place, second-place and third-place winners in each division will receive bronze plaques. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also may offer different types of awards to their winners.

Now is the time for all Lodges to contact their local school districts and provide them with the new topic. Ask them to add the essay contest to their fall curriculum. The same material accompanying this letter, and also a fillable Certificate of Participation for schools that participated in the contest, may be found at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm>.

This contest is most important because it involves school children in your area, showing them Americanism at its best. The contest also demonstrates that Members of your Lodge are proud to be Americans, proud to be Elks and proud to participate in the Americanism programs of Grand Lodge. Your Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to serving and assisting you as we all show pride in America.

May God continue to bless America. God bless the Elks and may God bless each of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert R. Hinkle".

Robert R. Hinkle, *Chairman*
Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee