

## **IMPORTANT NOTES FOR TEACHERS:**

The Essay Contest is designed so that every student (grades TK-12) can participate. We recognize that some children have little or no contact with their biological fathers, either as a result of death, divorce, or abandonment. Consequently, you may encourage those children to write about a father figure—a stepfather, grandfather, uncle or even a teacher or coach. Please emphasize that you want your students to be honest in articulating feelings about their relationship with their father, even if the relationship is not a positive one. All essays will be judged and treated with the same respect and confidentiality. While the fathers in those particular essays may not be chosen as Father-of-the-Year finalists, it is possible that the essay writers could still be grade level winners.

## **PACKET CONTENTS:**

- Teacher Checklist/Submission Form
- Contest Fact Sheet
- Official Entry Form

**1. TEACHER CHECKLIST/SUBMISSION FORM:** Before submitting student essays, teachers should review the CHECKLIST and fill out the TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM. Please fill out one TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM per class. Place the completed form with the original essays in a large envelope. (*Be sure to make a copy of all work submitted we cannot return entries*).

**2. CONTEST FACT SHEET:** The front side lists what students need to know about the assignment. You may reproduce this page for students and other educators.

**3. OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM:** Please make copies of the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM. Essays must be submitted with the completed form. This enables students to receive their prizes and fathers/father figures to participate in the selection process for Father of the Year. All information is held in strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose except to notify participants about the Father of the Year Essay Contest results.

## **NOTIFICATION:**

Teachers of essay winners will be notified by May 24, 2019, and results will be posted on our website. Fathers and father figures of the overall winning essays by grade will be contacted by our committee and will have the opportunity to be interviewed for the Father of the Year award.

Questions? Contact the Events office at 209-381-5910 or e-mail [sarancia@mcoe.org](mailto:sarancia@mcoe.org).



## TEACHER CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **REVIEW** the CONTEST FACT SHEET, which includes information about contest requirements, criteria for judging, and prize information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **COPY** and distribute the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM. Students must complete the information at the top of the form to be eligible for recognition and prizes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **COPY essays.** Originals should be submitted for judging and cannot be returned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **SEND** a copy of the essay home with students so that their fathers/father figures can review them and fill in the OPTIONAL response box provided on the back of the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **COMPLETE** the TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM below and return along with your students' essays postmarked no later than April 12, 2019 to:

**Merced County Office of Education  
Attention: Stacie Arancibia, Building J-1  
632 W 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95341**

### TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM *(Please complete all information)*

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Essays Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Before returning please make sure you have reviewed and completed the checklist above and have completed the TEACHER SUBMISSION FORM. If you have questions, please call (209) 381-5910 or Email: [sarancibia@mcoe.org](mailto:sarancibia@mcoe.org).**

## 2019 MERCED COUNTY FATHER-OF-THE-YEAR ESSAY CONTEST FACT SHEET

### Essay Subject: "What My Father Means to Me"

#### PROCEDURE:

Write a brief essay that describes your relationship with your father or father figure and what he means to you. Share your true feelings and provide examples. Include any joys, frustrations, or special memories you may have. Finally, end with a comment about what you would like (or would have liked) to see more of in your relationship with your dad.

#### CONTEST REQUIREMENTS:

1. Essays should be 300 words or less, fit on two sides of one sheet of paper, be legible, and written in English. Handwritten essays are acceptable. First and second graders may dictate their essays, according to teaching practice.
2. To be eligible for prizes, all essays must be postmarked on or before April 12, 2019. All information on the entry form must be completed. This allows students to receive their prizes and fathers/father figures to participate in the selection process for Father of the Year. All information is held in the strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose except the Father-of-the-Year Essay Contest.

#### CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

All entries must meet the requirements listed below and will be evaluated according to grade level. Beyond this, judging criteria will consist of:

1. How well you describe the nature of your relationship with your father or father figure.
2. Your use of specific details and stories that demonstrate your father's or father figure's character.
3. How honestly, clearly, and simply you express your thoughts.
4. Your overall writing skill.



## 2019 Merced County Father-of-the-Year Essay Contest

### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM *(Please complete all information)*

*This form may be reproduced. Typed essays are encouraged. If this form is not used, the information below must be included on the essay for it to be eligible. Students do not need to provide home information if school policy does not allow for it. Please provide complete information if possible. Thank you!*

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ (  ) Male (  ) Female

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing about my: (  ) Father (  ) Grandfather (  ) Stepfather (  ) Father Figure

Father's/Father Figure's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's (or other parent's) E-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above)

- 
- **(Optional) Father/Father figure response: *What have you learned from reading your child's essay?***

## **2019 Merced County Father-of-the-Year Essay Contest**

**In 300 words or less, describe in your own words: "What My Father/Father Figure Means to Me."**