Essay Contest for 8th Graders

Visit the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) website at www.nycom.org

Visit NYCOM’s Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/NYMayors) or follow us on Twitter (@NYMayors)

Download the PowerPoint presentation available on the NYCOM website at www.nycom.org.

Read your local newspaper – this is a good place to learn about current events in your municipality.

Ask your mayor or other local officials to come talk to your class about what they do.

Find your city or village website on the NYCOM website at www.nycom.org/resources/city-village-directory.

Student’s Name

School Name

City or Village of (circle one)

School or Sponsor Phone #

Teacher or Sponsor Name

Teacher or Sponsor Email

If you are unsure whether you are located within a city or village, please visit: www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/townlist.htm.

MAIL or EMAIL ALL ENTRIES TO:
NYCOM, Attn: Essay Contest, 119 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210
EMAIL: ifiweremayor@nycom.org

Student’s name and name of school MUST BE located on each essay or the essay will be disqualified.

If you are submitting one entry form/email for an entire class, please make sure the student’s name and both the name of the school and teacher are located on the top of each essay.

DEADLINE: March 9, 2020
**Contest Rules**

This contest is open to any 8th grade student currently enrolled in a school located in a city or village in New York State.

Each submission must clearly identify the student’s name (displayed on essay), school they attend and city or village in which the school is located.

Essay should begin with: “If I Were Mayor, I Would...” and explain What, Why and How you would undertake such action.

Essays must be between 350-500 words (1-2 pages | must not exceed 500 words).

Only one essay may be submitted per student.

Essays must be RECEIVED BY NYCOM NO LATER than Monday, MARCH 9, 2020

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**Essay Contest TIPS**

*If I Were Mayor, I Would...”*

When writing your essay, make sure you clearly state:

- **WHAT** you want to do
- **WHY** you want to do it
- **HOW** you are going to get it done

Below you will find some of the things that mayors can and cannot do. Please use them to guide you when choosing your What, Why and How.

**MAYORS CAN:**

- Lead and collaborate on the building of municipal projects (buildings, roads, parks, neighborhoods/communities)
- Promote and implement shared services (working together) with other governments
- Apply for grants (you must specify actual grants available from the state or federal government)
- Work with the legislative branch (city council or village board of trustees) to decide how the city or village should spend its money
- Make local laws (littering or speeding)
- Manage city and village employees (police officers, firefighters, building inspectors)
- Adopt resolutions to implement day-to-day operations of the city or village (mayor-for-a-day, park dedication, naming a street)

**MAYORS CANNOT:**

- Build private structures (restaurants/stores)
- Encroach on parental rights (un-ground)
- Accept, give away or loan public money or resources (gifts, prizes, favors)
- Interfere with school rules (lunch, recess, homework, teacher pay, safety)
- Infringe on Constitutionally protected rights

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**Judging & Prizes**

Essays will be judged on the What, Why and How along with creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought and proper use of grammar.

Three winning essays will be selected. First place will receive $150, second place $75 and third place $50. In addition, the winners will be highlighted on the NYCOM website and in our *Municipal Matters* magazine.

The first place winner along with his/her parents, teacher and mayor, will be invited to and recognized at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 3rd at the Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing. The first place winner will also be provided with an overnight stay at the Sagamore that evening.

All students whose essays make it to the final round will receive an “Honorable Mention” certificate.

For more information visit www.nycom.org.