



# St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Club

*St. Joseph, Michigan*

[www.sjbhrotaryclub.org](http://www.sjbhrotaryclub.org)

## 2012 Rotary Essay Contest Rules/Guidelines:

Each Berrien County High School is asked to nominate one senior student to participate in the event. One senior level homeschooled student is also invited to participate. Students will be notified of the essay topic by December, 2011. The topic is derived from current High School Social Studies Content Expectations.

**Participating students are to report to Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's Administrative Center Technology Center located at 711 St. Joseph Avenue in Berrien Springs on February 15 at either 8:30 am (contest will begin at 9 am) or 12:30 pm (contest will begin at 1 pm).** Upon arrival students will be directed to the Technology Center where the essays will be composed.

### Essay Delivery & Length

Students will be allowed two hours to write their essays. Each student may bring a 3 x 5 index card containing no more than 25 words-limited to one side (to organize their notes), a dictionary and a thesaurus. Internet use is not allowed and will be blocked from the computers in the lab. Each student will be provided with a 1G flash drive to save their essay on along with an instructional reference sheet and will be assigned a computer. The flash drive must be returned to an essay contest official in order to be considered eligible for scholarship prizes. Essays will not be accepted if they are saved on the computer's hard drive. Copies of the essays will be made after the contest and will be mailed to the student's school for student and teacher records. If circumstances require, students may handwrite essays.

The essay itself must be typed in a 12 point font, double spaced and in Times New Roman font. Margins will be pre-set on the computers before students arrive. Margins should not be altered.

Students will have two hours to complete their essays. Proctors will be onsite should students have questions during the competition period. The use of cell phones or any other electronic devices will be prohibited during the writing period.

### Judging

Essays will be judged on:

- Content 25%
- Originality/Style 25%
- Coherence/Unity 25%
- Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling 25%

Judges include members of the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Club and Berrien RESA staff members. Essays will only be identified by number when reviewed by judges. Student names and schools will not appear on the essays.

### Results

Winners will be identified by early April. Contest winners will be notified via a formal letter sent to the participating student's high school principal as well as an informal email sent to the school contact person. All students who participated in the event will be invited to attend a luncheon reception on **April 23, 2012** at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, St. Joseph, MI. Winners as well as all participants of the contest will be formally recognized at this event. Winners will need to submit a short bio (including future college plans) and a senior photo for the luncheon's program by mid-February.