



**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
San Diego Elks Lodge #168
7430 Jackson Drive
San Diego, CA 92119-2319
Phone: (619) 337-0168
FAX: (619) 462-3557**



August 31, 2021

Dear Principal,

This year the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are sponsoring an essay contest on "What does it mean to love your country?" as promulgated in the enclosed flyer. Please invite your eligible students to enter. San Diego Elks Lodge will present the five best essay winners in each Division with awards as follows:

1 st Place	\$100.00	2 nd Place	\$90.00	3 rd Place	\$80.00
4 th Place	\$70.00	5 th Place	\$60.00		

The best three essays in each Division from San Diego Elks Lodge will be sent to the District, the best three in each Division from the District will be selected and sent on to The State. At State, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each Division will receive a check. First place winners at the State judging will be sent to the Grand Lodge, where 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will receive a plaque.

I would ask that the teachers of the eligible students choose the five best essays in their class and submit them to the San Diego Elks Lodge.


Please mail all entries to:

Gary J. Marinelli, PER
San Diego Elks Lodge
7430 Jackson Drive
San Diego, CA 92119-2319

Entries must be submitted by December 15, 2021. Please have each student fill out the top section of the enclosed form **completely and legibly**, and then attach it to their essays. The form may be reproduced as needed.

The essays will be judged on Originality (the use of trite or worn out words or phrases - 30 points), Development of theme (Stays focused on ideas and thoughts doesn't ramble - 40 points) and Mechanics and neatness (Uses proper spelling, grammar and punctuation - 30 points). Make sure that the rules as listed in the flyer are followed. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (619) 665-5062 or by email at: garymarinelli@sprintmail.com

Sincerely,


Gary J. Marinelli, PER
Americanism Chairman
San Diego Elks Lodge #168