

# MEMORIAL DAY ESSAY CONTEST

*open to all Indian River County, FL area middle & high school students*

## AWARDS



**\$500—FIRST Place**

**\$200—1st Runner-Up**

**\$100—2nd Runner-Up**

**A TOTAL OF 6 PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!**

**ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2017**

**OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS on reverse**

*Sponsored by:*



**Cox-Gifford  
Seawinds**

**Community Outreach**

*Quality Healing Experiences  
for Our Community*

Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach is a program of:

Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory

1950 20th Street ~ Vero Beach, FL 32960

[coxgiffordseawinds.com](http://coxgiffordseawinds.com)

# 2017 Essay Contest Announcement & Official Rules

Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach, a program of Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory announces its first annual Memorial Day Youth Essay Contest. The contest is open to all Indian River County, FL area middle and high school students. The purpose of the contest is to create an educational awareness involving the young people in our communities so that they can learn more about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

## Official Rules

- 1. Eligibility:** Entrants must be middle or high school students enrolled in the Indian River County, FL area School District. Entries from private, charter and home schools will also be accepted.
- 2. Format:** Entries must be presented in the format of a **Personal Essay**, between 500-525 words, using a double-spaced 12-point font and must include a bibliography (not included in the word count).
- 3. Topic:** *"The True Meaning of Memorial Day". Students are encouraged to discuss the essay theme with teachers, parents and friends. The essay should be positive and clearly focused on the theme. Teachers and parents may check essays, but the content of the essay must be that of the student.*
- 4. Research:** Research is essential in creating a quality essay. Please cite library resources, Web URLs with access dates, and personal interviews.
- 5. Bibliography:** The bibliography must cite at least two references. Entries that do not include a bibliography will be disqualified.
- 6. Essay Entries:** Must be submitted and received between April 1 and April 30, 2017. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned, and they become the property of Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory. Essay entries cannot be accepted through email. Essays should be mailed to: **Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, 1950 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960, ATTN: Community Outreach Coordinator, Diane Saunier.** Entries must be accompanied by a 3x5 index card, attached but not stapled to essay containing the following information: contestant's name, mailing address, phone number, name of school, grade level (ex: 8th grade; 10th grade), student ID number, and name of parent/guardian who will accompany contestant at the May 29, 2017 Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.
- 7. Evaluation Process:** Winning essays will be selected on the following basis:
  - >25 points—Originality and creativity
  - >25 points—Compliance with the assigned topic
  - >20 points—Factual accuracy
  - >15 points—Grammar and organization of content
  - >15 points—Scope of research
- 8. Awards:** \$500 will be awarded to one each middle and high school first place winner; \$200 will be awarded to one each first place runner-up at both middle and high school levels and \$100 will be awarded to one each second place runner-up in both middle and high school levels. Each winner and his/her parent/guardian must be present to receive their prize. Winners will be notified prior to May 29 Essay Contest Awards Ceremony.

**Final judging and selection of winners will be made by a committee selected by Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach. Decision of judges are final. Results will be announced at the May 29, 2017 Essay Contest Awards Ceremony at Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, 1950 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960. Reception will follow. Winning essays will be featured on the Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory website, social media page and other related print and electronic media.**



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