



El Cajon Historical Society
Third Grade Historical Writing Contest - 2012
Theme: El Cajon Centennial: 1912 - 2012

Our focus this year is the incorporation of El Cajon in 1912, and the years leading up to it, as well. Any topic is acceptable. This is an official Centennial event and the contest is open to all public and private school third graders attending schools within the Cajon Valley Union School District boundaries and to all third graders living in the El Cajon area, including students in home study schooling. Students are not limited to classroom historical information.

Qualifications

- Please **include the entry form as a cover sheet for your essay. Entries will be ineligible for judging without it.** Spell your first and last name neatly as you want it to be on your certificate or trophy. Also, please print your name on your entry, neatly.
- Your entry should be at least 300 words or longer.
- Your entry should be in your own handwriting or typed with a hand written rough draft attached. **Typed copies will be ineligible for judging without handwritten rough draft attached.**
- Your entry must be in your own words that you can understand and read aloud. **Students must not copy directly from websites or printed material. Essays copied directly from websites, books, or pamphlets will not be eligible for judging.**
- Your entry must be on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
- **Your entry must include a list of references** that you used to complete your essay. Please include pages you may have used from websites with submitted essay. **Entries without a list of references will be ineligible for judging.**
- English Learners packet attached is for English Learners only, Level 1-3, for the Heritage Award (see awards).

Special Note: You may want to place your entry in a folder with pictures and artwork so that it makes a nice keepsake to show to others after the contest. **Judging will be on the written part only.**

Deadline

Your entry must be turned in to your teacher by **Friday, April 27, 2012**. Teachers will deliver essays by Tuesday, May 1, 2012 to Miguel Gavillan in Educational Services. Private or charter schools may contact one of the chairpersons. Entries received late will be ineligible for judging.

Suggestions for things you can write about

This year's topic is the **Centennial** – our city's 100th birthday. Any topic that falls within the Centennial theme and years 1912 – 2012 is appropriate, but topics of earlier years are also encouraged. Check the History page online at elcajonhistory.org for some ideas.

Judging - what counts?

Originality - Your story will get the most credit if it is about something few people know about. Your story is fresh because it is one you discovered.

Content – With the Centennial as a possible subject, your story must be about **past events in El Cajon**. You can tell a factual story, or you can pretend you or some young person is living in the past and tells your story, as you would actually see things in those days. You can compare life today in El Cajon to what it was like in the past. The essay should be a written account that explains past events in the El Cajon Valley. If writing about a living person, get his/her permission.

Appearance - Entries must be neat and clean so that they are easy for the judges to read.

Scoring Guides - Judging will be based on the Cajon Valley Writing Scoring Guides developed specifically for the Historical Society Essay Contest.



AWARDS

- All third graders entering the contest will receive a certificate for participation.
- The **Centennial Award/First Place winner** will receive a trophy and the Rexford Hall perpetual trophy. The Hall trophy will be kept on display at the winner's school for approximately one year. The first place winner will also receive \$35.
- The **Second Place winner** will receive a trophy and \$25.
- The **Third Place winner** will receive a trophy and \$15.
- **Fred & Nettie Kersten Award.** The winner will receive the judge's choice trophy.
- **Virginia Stead Award.** This trophy is about an aspect of natural life or wild life.
- **Dr. Alice Rodriguez Heritage Award.** This trophy is given to one student who describes a multicultural connection in his/her essay.
- **Weighorst Award.** This trophy will honor the best essay about Olaf Weighorst, a subject in his paintings, or the development of the Olaf Weighorst Museum and Western Heritage Center. The winner will receive \$25 and a special certificate from the museum.
- **A Best of School** trophy will be given to one student at each school.
- **Honorable Mention, Neatness, and Originality** trophies will also be given.

AWARDS CEREMONY - will be held on **Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7 p.m.** at the Ronald Reagan Community Center located at 195 East Douglas Avenue in El Cajon. The community center shares a parking lot with the El Cajon library and the fire department. *All students participating in the essay contest are invited to attend the award ceremony to receive their certificate of participation.* **Students receiving an award beyond a certificate will be notified by their teachers prior to the awards ceremony.** The El Cajon Historical Society reserves the right to print, post online, and archive the winning essays that were submitted for the Third Grade Essay Contest. All essays will be returned to students following the awards ceremony.

Notes to Parents of Third Graders

The El Cajon Historical Society sponsors the Third Grade Historical Writing Contest for the purpose of interesting third graders and their families in the history of the El Cajon community. We encourage parents to take part in helping their third grader to find a subject and information needed for writing his/her story. **Remember that it is to be his/her creation.**





Sources of Information

Knox House Museum - All available El Cajon Historical Society information is located in the Knox Hotel Museum, 280 North Magnolia Avenue, El Cajon. The telephone number is 444.3800. The museum is open on Saturdays. Please call before you plan to attend. Historical articles are available online at www.elcajonhistory.org.

City of El Cajon Website - www.ci.el-cajon.ca.us/about/history.html

The San Diego History Center - Balboa Park. You can call (619) 232-6203 for information about open hours. www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/90fall/elcajon.htm

The San Diego County Library - El Cajon Branch 200 East Lexington (619) 588-3718. The librarian can guide you to information available.

Senior Citizens - Grandparents and other older people who have lived in El Cajon for a long time may tell you interesting stories of the El Cajon they knew when they were younger. Many of these people enjoy telling about El Cajon.

Old Houses and Buildings - You can write about old houses or buildings in your neighborhood. Someone in the neighborhood can tell you about them. The Historical Society can give some clues on old houses.

Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College - (619) 660-0614

Nature Conservancy - 3033 5th Avenue #105 - (619) 209-5835

Department of Forestry - 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA - (619) 590-3100

Olaf Weighorst Museum - 131 Rea Ave., El Cajon, CA - (619) 590-3431,
www.weighorstmuseum.org

Kumeyaay Indian Nation -
http://viejasbandofkumeyaay.org/html/tribal_history/kumeyaay_history.html

REMEMBER: *Entries are due to teachers by Friday, April 27, 2012*

CEREMONY: *Ronald Reagan Community Center, Monday, June 4, 2012*

**For more information regarding the Essay Contest, please contact:
Alice Rodriguez, Essay Contest Coordinator e-mail at alicerod@san.rr.com
Jonna Waite, Essay Contest Co-Chair e-mail at jakwaite@gmail.com**



***EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM
CENTENNIAL***

PRINT STUDENT NAME _____
First Last

SCHOOL _____

TEACHER _____
(Mr., Mrs., Ms.)

TITLE OF ESSAY _____

This form must be attached to the student's essay.

Entry Deadline: *Friday, April 27, 2012*

Awards Program: *Monday, June 4, 2012
7 - 8 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
Ronald Reagan Community Center
195 E. Douglas Avenue
El Cajon, California*

