



**Editors: Officials Rules & Entry Form provided  
on pages 3 & 4,  
if you want to post on your own website**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Laura Soll (860) 688-4499, cell (860) 833-4466

**STATE'S STUDENTS INVITED TO ENTER ESSAY CONTEST TO HONOR VETERANS,  
WITH TOP WINNER TO RIDE IN CONNECTICUT VETERANS DAY PARADE  
Deadline for Entries is Friday, October 3**

**HARTFORD, CONN., May 25, 2008** – As **Memorial Day** nears and America prepares to honor centuries of soldiers who gave their lives while serving their country, Connecticut's young people – its future – are invited to express what the heroism and commitment of all veterans means to them.

**All Connecticut 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders** can enter a statewide essay contest that salutes the contributions of U.S. veterans. **The Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council** and the **State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs** are sponsoring this special project to encourage middle school students to learn more about the heroism and importance of American servicemen and women throughout our nation's history. A panel of judges will select one (1) top essay winner and two (2) runners-up. One of the top winner's prizes will be to ride in the parade in a special vehicle. **The contest entry deadline is Friday, October 3, 2008.**

The contest is one of the components of the ninth annual **Connecticut Veterans Day Parade**, to be held in Downtown Hartford, Conn. on **Sunday, November 2** starting at 1 p.m. The parade has become the largest Veterans Day Parade in New England.

**Essay contest entry applications are available on-line at both [www.ctveteransdayparade.org](http://www.ctveteransdayparade.org) or at [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva), or by calling (860) 844-8501.**

**To be eligible to enter the 2008 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest, candidates must:**

- Be a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student for the 2008-2009 school year;
- Be a legal resident of the State of Connecticut;
- Limit entries to one entry per person;
- Write an original essay entitled: "Why Should We Honor Veterans?";
- Limit the essay to 500 words or less; and
- All essays must be e-mailed or "snail" mailed **no later than Friday, October 3, 2008 to either:**

**E-Mail to:**  
d.rowles@cox.net

**OR**

**Snail Mail to:**  
Navy League  
P.O. Box 154  
West Granby, CT 06090

**-more-**

## STATE'S STUDENTS INVITED TO ENTER ESSAY CONTEST TO HONOR VETERANS...Page 2

**The entries will be judged by a panel of individuals. The judging criteria is:**

- Power of the Message of the Essay;
- Clarity of Thought;
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar; and
- Overall Comprehension of the Topic.

**The First Place Connecticut Veterans Day Essay Contest Winner will:**

- Ride with one guest in a special vehicle in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 2; in Hartford;
- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol where he/she will read the winning entry to the audience;
- Receive a U.S. flag that has flown over the Connecticut State Capitol Building; and
- Receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Navy League of the U.S.–Hartford Council.

**Two Contest Runners-Up** will each be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol where they will read their winning entries to the audience.

Any Connecticut resident who is an active, retired or honorably discharged member of the U.S. Armed Forces including commissioned officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves is welcome to march in the November 2 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade. Organizers also seek veterans groups, patriotic commissions, local municipalities, and middle, high school, college and university marching bands and drill teams from throughout the state.

Special parade features will include fly-overs by military aircraft, and a tolling of church bells and Moment of Silence when the parade will pause in observance of veterans who died while serving their country. The marching bands of the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University will join high school and middle school marching bands and fife & drum corps from all over the state in the procession.

**To register to march or volunteer in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade**, visit

[www.ctveteransdayparade.org](http://www.ctveteransdayparade.org) or call the Information Line at (860) 724-2649 ext. 23.

► **Essay contest entry rules and applications are available on-line at both [www.ctveteransdayparade.org](http://www.ctveteransdayparade.org) or at [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva), or by calling (860) 844-8501. The deadline for entries is Friday, October 3, 2008.**

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**Essay Contest Rules and Entry Form Follow on Next Pages**



**Co-Sponsored by:** The Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council **AND**  
The State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

## **CONTEST RULES – DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008**

The **Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council** and the **State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs** sponsor this special essay project to encourage 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to learn more about the heroism and importance of American servicemen and women throughout our nation's history.

### **TO BE ELIGIBLE for the 2008 Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest, candidates must:**

- Be a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student for the 2008-2009 school year
- Be a legal resident of the State of Connecticut
- Limit entries to one entry per person
- Write an original essay entitled: "Why Should We Honor Veterans?"
- Limit the essay to 500 words or less
- E-mail or snail-mail a completed entry form with an original essay **no later than Friday, October 3, 2008 to either:**

**E-Mail to:**  
d.rowles@cox.net

**OR**

**Snail Mail to:**  
Navy League  
P.O. Box 154  
West Granby, CT 06090

**Entries will be judged by a panel of individuals.**

### **JUDGING CRITERIA to be considered for all entries:**

- Power of the Message of the Essay
- Clarity of Thought
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- Overall Comprehension of the Topic

**The panel of judges will select one (1) top essay winner and two (2) runners-ups.**

### **The Contest Winner will:**

- Ride with one guest in a special vehicle in the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 2, 2008 in Hartford
- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol and read his/her winning entry to the audience
- Receive a U.S. flag that has flown over the Connecticut State Capitol Building
- Receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Navy League of the U.S.–Hartford Council

### **The Two Contest Runners-Up will each:**

- Be honored at a special ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the Connecticut State Capitol and read their winning entries to the audience

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTEST? Call (860) 844-8501**



# 2008 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Co-Sponsored by: The Navy League of the United States – Hartford Council AND  
The State of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs

## ENTRY FORM

▶ **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008**

▶ **Essay entitled “WHY SHOULD WE HONOR VETERANS?”**

Please make sure your name and phone number are listed at top of essay

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

CT, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: (Circle one) 6<sup>th</sup> grade      7<sup>th</sup> grade      8<sup>th</sup> grade

Middle School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: Connecticut ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher (if involved in your essay project) \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal/Head Master: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attached is my one page essay titled, “Why Should We Honor Veterans?”**

Thank you for the opportunity to have my essay considered by the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade Essay Contest Judges. I am personally responsible for the content of my original essay. I understand that my essay will not be returned to me and that I will be notified only if I am the Winner or one of the two Runners Up.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Entrant

▶ **This Entry Form must be submitted with your Original Essay by E-Mail or Snail Mail:**

**E-Mail to:**  
d.rowles@cox.net

**OR**

**Snail Mail to:**  
Navy League  
P.O. Box 154  
West Granby, CT 06090

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008**

**QUESTIONS? Call (860) 844-8501**

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