



Georgia Rotary Clubs' Laws of Life Essay Contest

Celebrating 15 Years of Character Education and Ethical Literacy



The Georgia Rotary Clubs' *Laws of Life* Essay Contest challenges high school students to write about the core character values that matter most in their lives – values such as honesty, perseverance, generosity and compassion. By encouraging students to reflect deeply on key life principles, the *Laws of Life* contest promotes and rewards the development of good character and changes lives for the better.

The contest also promotes advanced literacy by encouraging high school students to develop essential writing and analytical skills, and by assisting teens in making articulate arguments for their ethical beliefs.

A Signature Georgia Rotary Outreach Program

The Georgia *Laws of Life* Essay Contest reaches more students than any other Rotary program in our state. For the 2013-2014 contest, 41,809 Georgia students wrote a *Laws of Life* essay, and the contest presented more than \$19,000 in student and teacher prize money.

The Georgia *Laws of Life* contest is operated by the non-profit Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (GRDCEP), which is wholly operated by Rotarians and approved by Rotary International. The contest is sponsored by Rotary clubs, by corporate and family foundations, and by individual donors.

By sponsoring the Georgia Rotary Clubs' *Laws of Life* contest, your club can:

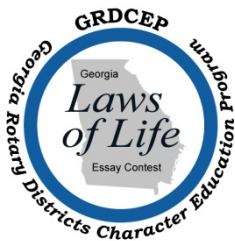
- **Introduce** an effective character education and literacy program in local high schools;
- **Encourage** teenagers to reflect on values such as those in the 4-Way Test;
- **Connect** with local educators, students and parents in a positive, values-affirming program;
- **Have a memorable program** each spring as winning students read their essays and receive recognition at a club meeting or special event;
- **Promote Rotary** in your community.

"The Laws of Life Essay Contest is one of the easiest and yet most meaningful ways for a Rotary Club to establish a strong community-school tie. By sponsoring the contest, a Rotary Club can reach out to the next generation of young people, support its local educators, and make a valuable contribution to character education within its community."
– George Stewart, Dunwoody Rotary Club, District 6900 Character Education Chair

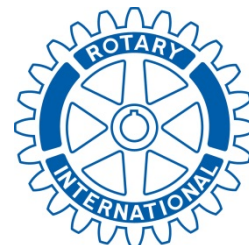
The Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Program conducts the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, an annual essay competition designed to promote character development and ethical literacy among high school students.

*For additional information, contact Susan Mason, Director, Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program
georgialawsoflife@gmail.com 404.590.8039*

www.georgialawsoflife.org



Georgia Rotary Clubs' **Laws of Life Essay Contest**



“Changing Students’ Lives Through the Power of the Pen”

“The Laws of Life Essay Contest is simply a celebration of the human spirit to shine in a sometimes dark world. Whether overcoming great adversity or making a discovery of our common humanity, the essayist is called to remember that celebration and share it.”

D. Alan Smith, 2014-2015 Rotary District 6910 Governor-Elect

“Reading the students’ essays will certainly touch your heart. I am so glad
Rotary is a part of this worthwhile program.”

Bob Hagan, 2014-2015 Rotary District 6900 Governor-Elect

“The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has truly helped my students to not only learn something about who they are, but to also understand that the lessons that they have learned in life are a foundation for the future.”

Terri Williams, Ph.D., Teacher

“This contest ... is a wonderful way for our students to express themselves and to see that anyone can succeed, no matter the obstacles that have been placed before him.”

Susan Buice, Teacher, Cherokee High School

“Not only monetarily, but mentally, the support I have received from Laws of Life... has blessed me tremendously. I will forever be at debt for the generosity I have received, and I am thankful for the members of Rotary because of their willingness to reach back and help young adults find their way to accomplish the American Dream.”

Duane Carver, 2006-2007 Georgia Laws of Life Student Winner

“I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in a contest of this magnitude. How exciting it is for the students’ talents and life stories to be recognized in this special way!”

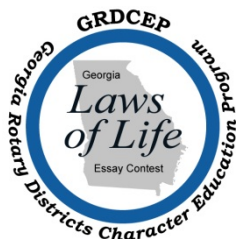
Dr. Cassandra Harrington, Teacher, Norcross High School

“Working with the Laws of Life essay contest is an incredibly meaningful experience. Oftentimes, students who are facing challenging experiences in their personal lives or who are overcoming adversity are recognized as winners. The fact that these students are honored gives them encouragement to succeed, which in the end creates a more successful community.”

Beth McIntyre, Rotarian

“I would like to thank you ... for the positive influence you have had on our community. Last year I became involved with the Laws of Life Essay Contest. ... I remember one struggling student [who was named] a grade level winner.He looked at me with tears in his eyes and said, ‘You don’t understand, Mrs. Gray. I’ve never won anything before in my life.’ Twenty minutes later when I looked at him, he was still shaking his head and smiling. The contest changed his life. He comes by to see me from time to time, and the pride he felt is still there in his eyes. Watching a student change his entire perception of himself is an unforgettable moment in my life and I thank you for giving me that.”

Jennifer Gray, Teacher, Hardaway High School



Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program, Inc.'s **Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest**

2014-2015 Rotary Club Sponsorship Form

Please return by mailing to 840 Woodley Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30318, or scanning and emailing to georgialawsoflife@gmail.com.

Club Information: Club name: _____ Rotary District _____

Name of club's Laws of Life Contest Chair: _____

Contact phone number: _____ Contact e-mail: _____

Mailing address: _____

Back-up contact: _____ Back-up's phone or E-mail: _____

School Information: High school(s) you would like to sponsor (leave blank if you want to be a general sponsor):

1. _____ Have you contacted anyone at the school? __ Y __ N

If yes, please list name of contact person, title, and phone # or email address:

2. _____ Have you contacted anyone at the school? __ Y __ N

If yes, please list name of contact person, title, and phone # or email address:

Financial Support: Sponsoring Rotary Clubs are asked to provide financial support to the contest AND/OR to recruit a local business to sponsor the contest. (For a corporate sponsorship package, contact Susan Mason at 404.367.9453.) The Bronze Level sponsorship does not fully cover the average cost per school, so Rotary clubs are encouraged to sponsor at a higher level if possible. *Last year the contest presented \$19,000 student and teacher cash awards alone, and the contest provides all contest materials, teacher training materials, student award medallions, etc., free of charge to schools.*

Our Rotary club will serve as a (please check one the following):

Bronze Sponsor: \$500 _____ Emerald Sponsor: \$750 _____ Silver Sponsor: \$1,000

Gold Sponsor \$1,500 _____ Platinum Sponsor \$2,000: _____ Diamond Sponsor: \$2,500 _____

Presenting Sponsor \$ 5,000 _____ Other: \$ _____

Payment: Checks are payable to the Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (or "GRDCEP") and should be mailed to Georgia Laws of Life, 840 Woodley Drive, Atlanta, GA 30318. You can include your payment with this form or be invoiced later.

GRDCEP / Georgia Laws of Life is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

***GRDCEP Tax ID # 27-1203817 ***

Questions? Contact Susan Mason, Director, Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, at 404.590.8039

**2014-2015 Georgia *Laws of Life* Essay Contest
Rotary Club Sponsorship Information**

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Sponsor a local high school **or serve as a general contest sponsor.** (General sponsorships allow schools without a local Rotary club to participate in the program.)
- 2) Provide financial support as a Bronze (\$500), Emerald (\$750) Silver (\$1,000), Gold (\$1,500), Platinum (\$2,000), Diamond (\$2,500) or Presenting (\$5,000) Sponsor.
- 3) Recognize the club's school winners at a club meeting or similar in the spring. (Not required if serving as a general sponsor.)
- 4) Optional: Assist in essay judging.

TIMELINE:

Spring / Summer, 2014:

- If you wish to be sponsor a specific school, contact the principal or English Department Chair, after coordinating with the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, and present him/her with a **Laws of Life School Information Package**. The package is available by request from georgialawsoflife@gmail.com or 404.590.8039.
- Complete the Rotary club registration form and return to the Laws of Life contest.

For clubs sponsoring a particular school, the following deadlines apply:

Summer / Fall 2014:

- Let the School Contest Chair know you are available to help and answer questions. Continue to stay in contact with the teacher every few months, to make sure that the school is on-track with the contest.
- Set aside a meeting in late April or May to recognize the school's essay winner(s), or otherwise plan for a student recognition event.

February – mid-April, 2015:

- In February, your club will be contacted about opportunities for club members to serve as essay judges. (Participation in judging is optional.)
- In late March or early April, the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest announces the student winners and issues the student award and teacher honoraria checks.

Mid-April – mid-May 2015:

- Clubs host a student recognition event and invite student winners to read their essays aloud.