



JOE FOSS Institute

Independence Day Scholarship Contest 2015

"ADOPT A VETERAN"

Essay Scholarship Contest Guidelines

This contest is open to U.S citizens of all national backgrounds that are currently studying in the United States or in an American military school out of the country. Eligible contestants must be 11th or 12th grade students in a public, private, alternative, parochial school, or a home study program. Previous first place JFI scholarship recipients are not eligible. **Recent high-school graduates are eligible to participate as long as the “deadline” of the current contest falls within 12 months after graduation.** The three winners will receive \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,000 scholarships to the accredited U.S. college or university of their choices. The winners will be notified and their names posted on our website by mid-February, 2016.

OBJECTIVE

Section 1

Find a military veteran that you do not already know. Immerse yourself in that person’s life. This is NOT simply an interview. Spend time with him/her. Get to know him. Be his friend. Discover his history, his feelings then and now, how he would like to spend the rest of his life. What does he enjoy doing, talking about? How did his service affect his life? Be special to him. Make an impact on his life. Where do you find a vet that you don’t know? Everyplace. Ask adult friends who they know, go to the VFW, the VA hospital, American Legion, ask your teachers, etc. Of course, you may contact the Joe Foss Institute and we can put you in touch with one of our veterans in your area (see contact information at bottom of second page). Then write a 1500 word essay about your experience. Include your knowledge of Veterans Day, how you plan to observe and honor it, your own feelings about “your” vet and all veterans in general. This is not a simple biography of your vet. Your essay will be evaluated not on your experience, but on how you write it up. Critical criteria will be **Creativity, Theme Development, Clarity of Ideas, and Mechanics** (Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, Sentence Structure, etc.) It is not only acceptable, but also advisable to have several adults proof your work before submitting. Please review the Essay Rules in section 3.

HOW TO ENTER

Section 2

Entries must be submitted electronically by email to Scholarship@JoeFossInstitute.org by Sunday, November 15, 2015, 11:59 p.m. MST. No exceptions will be made for late entries. Please email questions to: scholarshipJFI@cox.net.

By submitting an entry, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand completely the guidelines of this competition. You are also stating that the essay is of your own work/creation.

Before you write the “understanding” statement on the cover of your essay, please reread the guidelines. Be certain that you are in compliance. “Almost” is not good enough.

Before you begin, please read the following rules: (*do not disqualify yourself by not reading these Guidelines carefully and all the way to the end*)

1. The essay **MUST** be the contestant's original work. (finalists' essays will be scanned for plagiarism)
2. Contestants may enter one time only. (per contest)
3. Essays must be 1500-2000 words. (cover page, title and footnotes do not contribute to the overall word count - **1499 word count is not acceptable** - all rules are firm)
4. Quotations may be used sparingly and sources must be clearly identified. (you may use any form of citation as long as credit is given where due)
5. All entries must be double spaced, in English, and in an easily readable 12 pt. font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc. no script or other "fancy" fonts please)
6. Contestants may not identify themselves, their schools, cities, or state within the essay (no reader should be able to say "oh, I know who that is!")
7. Entry must be received by the stated deadline as indicated above. Entries must be sent in an MS Word file as an attachment. **Do not copy either the text of the essay or the cover sheet into the body of the email.**
8. The cover sheet is to be page one of the attached essay, not a separate attachment
9. Identify the attachment with your **last name, first name**. (not the essay itself, just the Word document)

The following items are required on the cover sheet and are not included in the overall word count:

1. Full Name
2. Address, City, State, and Zip-Code
3. Phone Number and E-Mail Address (*if this is missing, we can't notify you if you win*)
4. Date of Birth
5. Grade Currently Enrolled In School
6. Full Name and Address of School Attending
7. School Telephone Number
8. English Teacher's Name & Email Address (the teacher who is most familiar with your written work)
9. Total Word Count (Excluding Cover Sheet and Footnotes, if any)
10. Statement: "I have read and understand the guidelines. The essay submitted is original and of my own creation." (does not have to be handwritten)
11. Where you heard about this scholarship competition
12. Password (If you read the Guidelines **all the way through**, you will know this.)

Contestants found in violation of the contest rules will be eliminated from the competition. If plagiarism is identified, the contestant will be ineligible to compete in future competitions administered by the Institute. If recipient is found in violation of the rules after receiving scholarship funds, all prize money will be forfeited. We reserve the right to publish the winning participant's name and/or essay (whether in excerpts or in its entirety). The essay will be verified by a teacher familiar with the recipient's original work. We also reserve the right to void the contest for any reason.

BEFORE SUBMITTING, PLEASE REREAD ALL REQUIREMENTS

DISCLAIMER AND OTHER IMPORTANT FINE PRINT (Don't skip this section!)

It is very important to read the guidelines carefully and follow them exactly. Many students have been careless, disqualified, disappointed, and angry. Common errors have been word shortage (yes, 2 words short will disqualify), incomplete cover sheet, and using single space instead of double. When you write on the cover sheet "I have read and understand the guidelines" it is expected that you will follow all of the rules. The password is Honor. It cannot be emphasized enough that entries that do not conform to all the guidelines will be disqualified.

PLEASE REREAD THE GUIDELINES VERY CAREFULLY. We really do not like disqualifying essays on technicalities, but if the Guidelines are not followed exactly, the essay must be disqualified.


Phone 480-348-0316

Scholarship@JoeFossInstitute.org • www.JoeFossInstitute.org

WHO WAS JOE FOSS?

A curly haired six-foot Captain who looked like his friend John Wayne, General Foss inspired the nation as a wartime ace. Flying a Grumman Wildcat, he became the first American pilot of World War II to equal Captain Eddie Rickenbacker's record from World War I.

Decorations

-  [Medal of Honor](#)
-  [Distinguished Flying Cross](#)
-  [Presidential Unit Citation](#)
-  [American Defense Service Medal](#)
-  [American Campaign Medal](#)
-  [Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal](#) with three bronze stars
-  [World War II Victory Medal](#)



In 1943, President Roosevelt presented Joe with the Medal of Honor. The same year, Admiral Halsey pinned the Distinguished Flying Cross on him. Captain Foss was pictured in his dress uniform on the cover of Life magazine on June 7, 1943, and described as "**America's No. 1 Ace.**"

Joseph Jacob Foss was born on April 17, 1915, on a farm with no electricity, near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and grew up there as a farm boy.

After World War II, Joe returned to active duty for the Korean War at the rank of Colonel, following which, he became Chief of Staff for the South Dakota Air National Guard, retiring at the rank of Brigadier General. After serving two terms as the Republican Governor of his native South Dakota, he went on to accomplish much in private life. He was the first commissioner of the American Football League until 1966, the host of two national television shows and President of the National Rifle Association from 1988 until 1990. He was featured prominently in Tom Brokaw's book "The Greatest Generation." Brokaw characterized Foss as, "He had a hero's swagger but a winning smile to go with his plain talk and movie-star looks. Joe Foss was larger than life, and his heroics in the skies over the Pacific were just the beginning of a journey that would take him to places far from that farm with no electricity and not much hope."

He was a courageous and principled man, sincere, devout and patriotic. Joe Foss exemplified and embodied the American spirit.

Joseph Jacob Foss died January 1, 2003 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery following a "**Memorial Service for**



an American Patriot" in the old chapel at nearby Fort Myer. Vice President Dick Cheney, retired Colonel Oliver North, and NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw were among those who attended the service, with North delivering the eulogy. Actor Charlton Heston gave a brief but powerful tribute to his old friend

Frequently Asked Questions

My essay is single spaced. Will it still be acceptable?

Answer: No

My Grandpa was a veteran. May I write about him?

Answer: No, find someone you don't already know

Will you help me find someone?

Answer: Yes, contact us at 480-348-0316 or **Scholarship@JoeFossInstitute.org** or through our website www.JoeFossInstitute.org

Does my essay have to be true?

Answer: Yes

Is this a biography of "my" vet? Is this his/her life story?

Answer: No, write about your experience with the vet.

I don't have an English teacher this year. What do I put on the cover sheet?

Answer: The name and email of the teacher who is most familiar with your written work

If I spend one long day with my vet, will that be enough?

Answer: No, develop a relationship

What if there is missing information on my cover sheet?

Answer: The essay will be disqualified

May I make up my own password?

Answer: No, the correct password is revealed in the Guidelines. It is not hidden and it is not a trick question. Read everything & you will find it.

What if my attachment is not identified LAST NAME, FIRST NAME?

Answer: The essay will be disqualified

Why is the name of the attachment so important?

Answer: We expect several hundred entries. Each one has to be saved on the computer. If I can simply hit SAVE and not have to type all those hundreds of names, it keeps me in a better mood when I read your essay. ☺ Keeping me in a good mood is important.

What is the attachment?

Answer: That's the Word document that contains your essay.

Does my essay have to be in MLS format?

Answer: No

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen?

Answer: Yes