



2022 IFI Fatherhood Essay Contest

Student's Name

"What My Father or an Important Father-Figure* Means to Me"

3000 Character Maximum

Father/Father-Figure reaction to this essay:

2000 Character Maximum

By providing a response and your email, IFI can provide information about various activities and resources.

Father/Father-Figure Name

Email

Phone:

**A Father-Figure can be a stepdad, grandfather, uncle, pastor, or coach. Can even be a mom, stepmom, grandmother, or aunt if there are no influential males in your life.*

CONTEST DETAILS

Each student is asked to write a 3000 character (or less) essay in English on the theme “What My Father or an Important Father-figure Means to Me,” describing their relationship with their father or father figure. Students should share their true feelings. Provide examples of joys, frustrations or special memories they have as well as commenting about what they would most like to see in their relationship. A Father-figure can be a stepdad, grandfather, uncle, pastor, or coach. It can even be a mom, stepmom, grandmother, or aunt if there are no influential males in an essayist’s life.

CRITERIA FOR ESSAY JUDGING

Submissions will be evaluated according to grade level. Judging criteria will consist of:

1. How the essay describes the relationship.
2. Detail and stories that demonstrate the character of the father/ father-figure.
3. Honesty, clarity, simplicity of writing.
4. Overall grade level appropriate writing skill.

JUDGING PROCESS

1. Essays will be divided into 13 categories (K-12).
2. Volunteers will use the above judging criteria, reading every essay. Top essays from the first round will be sent to a final essay reading session.
3. At the final essay reading, volunteers will then select 10 essays per grade. Up to 130 essay semi-finalists and their “dads” will be invited to attend the IFI Faces of Fatherhood Celebrationtm in late spring.
4. The “dads” of the essay semi-finalists will receive questionnaires to fill out via the school contact.
5. The top 13 essay writers will be invited to the IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration.

RULES

1. One entry per person.
2. All essays must be original, written in English, and created by the student. Teachers may translate the essays into English.
3. All entries become the property of Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI). IFI will not be able to return them.
4. Entry into the contest transfers copyright of the essay to IFI and grants IFI permission to reproduce without compensation all or any portion of the essay and response on an unlimited, world-wide basis in its publications and media channels.
5. When appropriate and with parent/guardian permission, IFI will cite the name of the author(s) if significant portions of a positive essay/response are used. IFI will also change or conceal names to maintain confidentiality where necessary.
6. Contest is open to Illinois students (K-12).
7. By entering, participants and their parent/guardian agree to the use of name, contact information, photograph, or likeness for advertising and any promotion of the IFI.