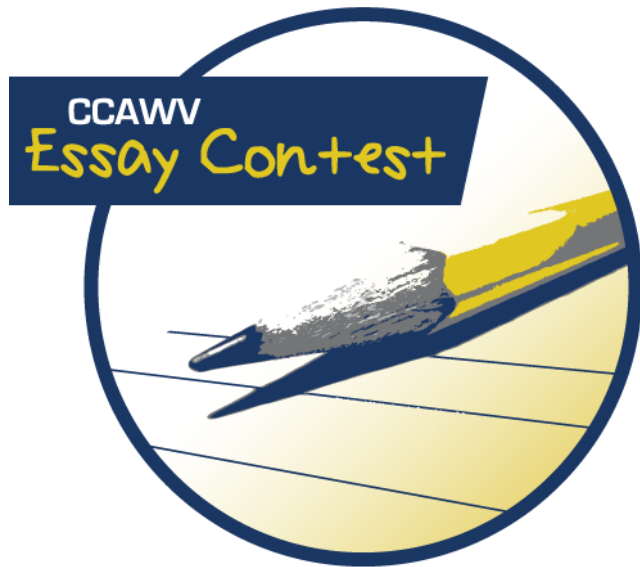


2021 County Government Essay Contest



April is National County Government Month and the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia (CCA WV) is hosting its annual essay contest for 8th grade students across West Virginia.

There will be monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Student winners. There will also be a monetary prize for the 1st Place winner's teacher to be used for classroom activities. The 1st Place Student and Teacher will each receive \$500; 2nd Place Student \$300; and 3rd Place Student \$200. There will also be \$50 awards for five Honorable Mention Students.

One of CCA WV's goals is to increase information and public awareness about county government and the office of County Commissioner. As an initiative of this goal the Association is excited to partner with West Virginia educators to encourage students to learn and write about their local county governing body, the County Commission.

Student participants are asked to type a 500-word essay on the topic, "How does my county commission make life better for me?" All entries must be emailed by 5

p.m., April 16, 2021 to qualify. Please see attached rules. Entries should be emailed to: jennifer@ccawv.org or for more information please contact Jennifer Piercy at jennifer@ccawv.org or at 304-345-4639. Winners will be announced by April 23, 2021.

There is also an online application option this year or participants may download a PDF of the application and email it to the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia office.

The contest is open to all 8th grade students in West Virginia.

Application forms are also available on the Wood County website: www.woodcountywv.com on the county commission page.

There are a series of five informational videos on the association's Website at www.ccawv.org that detail the roles and responsibilities of county commissioners.

There are three Wood County commissioners: David Blair Couch, commission president; Bob Tebay and Jimmy Columbo, each one serves from one of three districts. They are elected countywide and serve for six years. The Wood County Commission meets twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday and additional meetings are conducted as necessary.

Responsibilities of the County Commission include: oversight of county tax dollars; commissioners set the county's annual budget and the levy rate for property taxes, and provide and maintain county government facilities.

The commissioners are responsible for funding the offices of elected officials.

They appoint members to various boards, committees, authorities and public service districts and serve as liaisons to many of those agencies themselves.

The county also supports community services like the health department, parks and recreation, volunteer fire departments, 911 Center, libraries, solid waste management, and the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport, among others. The county has three parks: Veteran's Park, Mountwood and Fort Boreman.

The county works closely with municipal, state and national leaders on behalf of the county in many areas including economic development.

The commissioners listen to concerns of individuals and once a year convene as a Board of Equalization and Review to hear appeals of property values. They are responsible for supervising the election process, act as the Board of Canvass and certify election results as well as provide funds to run the elections.

The commissioners, by code, also serve as the probate court. They also approve ordinances in areas of their jurisdiction.

CCAWV County Government Essay Contest Rules 2021

The contest is open to all 8th grade students who are enrolled in a West Virginia public or private school.

The contest deadline is 5 p.m. on April 16, 2021

Each essay is limited to a maximum of 500 words and a minimum of 400 words and must address the following question: “How does my county commission make life better for me?” The essay must address specifically the county commission of the county in which the student resides.

Each student is limited to one entry.

Each teacher must completely fill out an official application form (attached). Please submit each entry individually as a Word or PDF document with a copy of the application form attached.

All entries must contain the student’s name, email address, and the county name in which the essay is about.

All entries must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format and must be submitted by the student’s teacher.

All entries must be emailed to jennifer@ccawv.org prior to 5 p.m. on April 16, 2021.

The winning essays will be announced by April 23, 2021.

The 1st place student will receive \$500, and the teacher who submitted the 1st place essay will receive \$500 to be used for classroom activities

The 2nd place student will receive \$300 and the 3rd place student will receive \$200.

The winning students and his/her teachers will be invited to a County Commissioners meeting in their home county to receive their awards.

The 1st place winning essay will be posted on the CCAWV website, (www.ccawv.org).

Essays will be judged on the following criteria: Understanding of the role of county commission; grammar and spelling; clarity and organization of thought. By entering the contest, each student and teacher agrees to allow his/her name to be used in a news release announcing the contest winner in the event that their essay is selected as a winning essay. In addition, they agree to allow their photograph to be published in the CCAWV Newsletter and on the CCAWV Web site.

Entries will not be returned.

**Official Application Form
CCAWV 2021 County Government Essay Contest**

County _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Email Address: _____

Name of School: _____

School Telephone #: School Mailing Address:

Submitting Student's Name: _____

Submitting Student's mailing address (if available):

(Teachers must submit a copy of this completed form with each student entry.)