

Foster City 50th Anniversary Essay Writing Contest

Sponsored by the Foster City Historical Society. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Foster City in collaboration with the City of Foster City



Contest Fee: \$10 per entry
First Place: \$100; Second Place: \$75
(for each category)

ESSAY OVERVIEW:

An essay should reflect the writer's personal outlook on life as gained through personal experience, but it must not be an editorial/opinion piece, a proposal to solve an existing geopolitical problem or a dogmatic expression of opinion. Stories in these categories may be written in any narrative point of view and must not exceed 3000 words in length. As related to the 50th Anniversary of Foster City, it would be anticipated such an essay could address a variety of topics, including to, but not limited to: one's own personal experiences growing up here in Foster City, one's thoughts and recollections on current life here in the city, the lifestyle you live, and including examples of really nice things you enjoy here plus some things that could be improved, and finally thoughts one could have about the future of our city. What should be our future vision including goals you would like to see accomplished in coming years?

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION GUIDELINES:

Manuscripts must be original, previously unpublished, and in English. They must be double spaced on 8.5" x 11" white paper with the pages numbered at the top right-hand corner. Contestant's name **must not** appear on the manuscript. No graphics or illustrations on manuscripts, please. The entry should not exceed 3,000 words in length. Manuscripts not conforming to said guidelines will be reviewed only at the judging staff's discretion. Contest judges are not eligible to participate in this contest.

JUDGING CATEGORIES: The essay contest will be divided into three separate entrance categories, defined as follow:

1. Elementary / Middle School Youth (exempt from fee)
2. High School Youth (exempt from fee)
3. Adults (generally 17 and older, but if person still in high school, than the individual will be grouped in the second category)

Contest information continued next page...

The City of Foster City is helping to facilitate. 100% of contest monetary costs are being paid for by entrance fees and by the Foster City Historical Society. This is not a PTA or school sponsored event or program.

JUDGING CRITERIA AND PROCESS:

Criteria for judging the essay contest, for each of the three categories, will be finalized based on documentation maintained by the Peninsula Press Club as used in judging previous writing contests, and specifically essay entries. In addition, further consultation with them, and possibly others, will be conducted to determine any additional judging criteria, based on other unique aspects and needs of this Foster City 50th Anniversary Essay writing contest.

ENTRY FORMS AND FEES:

Entry forms can be obtained either online at city's 50th anniversary website, fostercity50.org, or by sending a request to the contest email address: fostercitywriters@gmail.com or send a request for an entry form along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the City of Foster City address (see below).

A non-refundable entry fee of **\$10** must be submitted for **each entry**, made payable to "**City of Foster City.**" If submitting multiple entries, please remit only one check. Place entrant's name in 'memo' field of check. International entrants (including those from Canada and Mexico) must submit an international money order in US funds. No credit card payments. Mail your completed entry form and manuscript to:

Foster City International Writers' Contest
c/o Foster City Parks and Recreation Department
650 Shell Boulevard, Foster City, CA 94404 USA

Note: The Foster City Historical Society is sponsoring the Elementary / Middle School & High School Youth categories. Youth categories do not have entry fees. One 1st (\$100) and one 2nd (\$75) place prize per youth category will be awarded sponsored by in Starbucks Gift Card(s).

ONLINE ENTRY SUBMISSION:

Please send manuscript as an attachment (RTF, Word [DOC], PDF, or TXT format) to fostercitywriters@gmail.com. In the email subject line include: Writer's Contest Entry, Category, and your name. Please retain copies of manuscripts as they cannot be returned. **Please mail the check along with your completed entry form to Foster City Parks and Recreation.**

DEADLINES AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS:

Manuscripts will be accepted through **November 29, 2021** (postmarks accepted). **Manuscripts without fees will not be accepted.** All will be notified whether your entry received an award or not & will be given information on the following year's contest. Each winner must provide a social security number (or the equivalent if you live outside the US and don't have a SSN or are a citizen of another country) in order to receive the cash prize, as the award amount needs to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. For any general contest information please call: Eileen Shaine (650)-888-4518

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Foster City 50th Anniversary Essay Writing Contest Official Entry Form

Please type or Print Clearly

A separate entry form is required for each piece submitted

Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-Mail: _____

Title of Work _____

Submitter Category (Select one)

Elementary / Middle School _____ High School _____ Adult _____

Certification:

I agree to abide by the rules of the Foster City 50th Anniversary Essay Writing Contest. I certify that the piece submitted is an original and has not been previously published elsewhere.

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Resident _____ Non-Resident _____ Entry Number _____ Category Code: _____

