

The Richmond Peace Education Center presents:  
**The 2017 Peace Essay Contest**

*Theme: Many People...One Nation*

*"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" Emma Lazarus, November 2, 1883*

***Americans come from many different backgrounds. How can we build understanding and respect for one another among people of different heritages and beliefs?***

***What can you do to help build a community from people of so many different backgrounds? What can we do together in our schools, our neighborhoods, and our nation to help build respect and understanding among all who live in our country?***

***Include examples of contributions from people of various cultures and heritages, including your own, who have helped build the United States.***

**First Prize: \$100**

**Second Prize: \$50**

**Third Prize: \$20**

**Five Honorable Mentions: \$10**

Prizes awarded in 4 grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, Middle: 6-8, High School: 9-12

- Open to any elementary, middle, or high school student in Virginia
- Prizes awarded at each school level: K-2, 3-5, Middle: 6-8, High School: 9-12
- Entries judged on content, composition, style and grammar, *with emphasis on the content and creativity of the ideas expressed*
- **Deadline for entries: April 24, 2017**
- **Submit two copies** of each entry, along with a completed entry form
- Each entry must be the original work of the student author.
- Winners will be notified on or before June 1, 2017

**Mission and Vision:** The Richmond Peace Education Center builds just, inclusive and nonviolent communities through education and action. We work to build a peaceful community that:

Appreciates diversity;

Resolves conflicts nonviolently;

Builds safety through cooperation and community;

Shares economic and political power equitably;

Takes its place within the community of earth responsibly;

Empowers all individuals to live full and abundant lives.



Richmond Peace Education Center

[www.rpec.org](http://www.rpec.org) (804) 232-1002 [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org)

# 2017 Peace Essay Contest Entry Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ School phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/level \_\_\_\_\_ School division \_\_\_\_\_

We hereby certify that this entry is the original work of the student:

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am the Sponsor of the student (teacher, parent or guardian):

Sponsor signature \_\_\_\_\_

## For Parents & Teachers

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, please add us to the Peace Center's mailing list!

email address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

## Contest rules

1. The contest is open to all elementary, middle and high school students in Virginia.
2. Entries must be limited to 1000 words or less.
3. Essays will be judged and prizes awarded separately at each school level--primary (gr. K-2), elementary (gr. 3-5), middle (gr. 6-8), and high school (gr. 9-12).
4. **Submit two copies of each entry.** Keep a copy for your records. Each entry must also include a **completed entry form** (above). **No entries will be returned.** No electronic entries accepted. Only winning entrants will be notified.
5. The final essay must be the original work of the student author.
6. Primary (K-2) entries may also include an original illustration.
7. Entries must be typed and double-spaced, or legibly written. Pages must be numbered.
8. Submission of an entry grants permission for the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) to publish the essay or excerpts from it in its newsletter, website or other publications.
9. Essays will be judged on the basis of content, style, composition, mechanics and usage, with an emphasis on content. The decisions of the judges are final.
10. **Deadline for submissions: April 24, 2017.** Winners will be notified on or before June 1, 2017.

Deliver or return this entry form by U.S. mail, along with **two copies** of the essay to:  
**Essay Contest, RPEC, 3500 Patterson Ave., Richmond VA 23221**