“My City, My Home”
Invitation & Instructions

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites all Kansas 7th graders to join our essay contest!

Please submit your essay describing what you enjoy about your community for a chance to win $125 and have your idea published in the Kansas Government Journal. One young leader will be named the overall winner for the state of Kansas and win $250. The winners and their teacher will be invited to Topeka for a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislators in January 2023.

Become an active participant in your community, better the lives of your fellow citizens, and discover the rewards it provides.

CONTEST RULES

Who: All Kansas students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2022-23 school year.
What: Each student may submit one essay not to exceed 500 words. Memos must be typed.
When: Deadline is November 23, 2022
How: Essays will be evaluated based on creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and proper grammar.
Why: In an effort to encourage youth engagement, the League reserves the right to republish the essays and pictures of each student to connect Kansas youth in their work.

#MyCityMyHome #LeagueYouthCivicEducation #LKM

Check out the League’s full CURRICULUM for youth civic education. Our program includes lesson plans, activity books, and a resource guide. All materials are interactive on the web and free to download.

Updated July 2022
Introduction:
Kansas is a great place to live. In Kansas, there are 625 cities and they are each unique and different. A city is a place where you live, go to school, shop, and meet with your friends and family. In this essay contest, we want to know, what makes your city your ‘home?’

Here's some ideas to help you get started on your essay:
- What is it about your neighborhood and the people who make your community feel like a place you belong and are wanted?
- Does your city have a unique culture and history? Is there an opportunity for arts, festivals, entertainment, and the historical dialogue?
- Do you have great restaurants and places to gather?
- Does your city have a special food that it is known for (or event that celebrates special food in your community)?
- Does your city celebrate sports, recreation, an opportunities to get outside and be a part of nature?
- Are there places in your community that everyone recognizes and celebrates as a part of your community?
- What is the educational environment in your community and how do your schools (elementary, middle school, high school, and higher education) play a part in your community?
- What about your business community and main street merchants? Do they support your community and help your city thrive?
- Is there a special story that you can tell about your community that makes it unique?

Example from 2021-22 Winner Jayden Renfro:

Fowler Kansas. A small town with small people with some of the largest hearts. This town residing near Meade has survived a lot, from tornados, to bonfires raging to big proportions. Dear old Fowler was founded in 1880, by George Fowler, who had a dream to found a town, and live happily with his family. My home town has been through quite a lot, and many lovable people have been born, and died happily in Fowler. There are people who's bloodlines have started and ended in Fowler.

An example of the people with the largest hearts is my Grandmother. She has got to have the largest amount of love in the world. She gives twenty dollar bills to the poor and homeless, she loves everyone equally, no matter your background, she will love you and care for you. She once gave an entire lamb leg to a person who couldn't feed their family. We, the people of Fowler Kansas, have gone through a lot. Violent storms, plagues that take the lives of the elderly, and small massacres, but no matter what, we have stuck through it. The Meade hospital and the Meade police department rush into the scene no matter the situation. Big or small. Our town, no, our country has us covered, no matter how small a crime, no matter how horrifying an injury, our departments have everything under control.

I personally find the town mild, but if a salsa is too bland, no one likes it. If a salsa is too spicy, people try it and start crying at their choice. I know that being mild can be bad in most cases, but being a town I'm both proud of being in, and familiar with. I love this small town with all of my heart, because everyone knows who's down the street, who's out in front of your yard, but in a large city, you don't get that neighborhood feeling. Where there are not any people who you know very well. It's lonely in a large city, but in the small, rural area, where everyone knows each other and their voices.

I, and all other residents can affirm, we love our dear old Fowler, and would not trade it for anything in the entire world. We are born, live, work, and die, in Fowler, which may not seem fulfilling, but truly is the best thing that can happen to us.