

Students can win up to \$500 in essay contest

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Students in the third through twelfth grades who attend schools in West Florida Electric Cooperative's service area can win \$250 to \$500 in an essay contest. The National Rural Education Association (NREA) Foundation will award prizes in three groups — \$250 for a third through fifth-grade student, \$500 for a sixth- through ninth-grade student and \$500 for a high school student.

Contestants must compose an essay addressing the questions, "Who in my community has done the most for rural education and my rural school?" and, "In what outstanding way has this individual contributed to rural education in my school?" Length requirements for the essays are 250 words for each elementary school entry and 500 words for each middle or high school entry. A special NREA committee will judge the submissions based on originality, focus on topic, mechanics and overall quality.

Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2000, and must be written in ink or typed doubled-spaced on only one side of the paper. No names or school names should appear on the essay itself, but a cover sheet with the student's name, school's name, teacher's name and school's address and telephone number should be attached. Also required is a statement from the school principal verifying the essay is the student's original work and was written during school time under the supervision of an English or social studies teacher.

A maximum of five entries per category will be accepted from any one school. Schools are expected to pre-screen essays and select five entries from the elementary school category, five from the middle/junior high school category and five from the high school for submission to NREA.



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