

ROTARY CLUB SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

*"To give is better than to receive."
"Never, ever give up."
"When in doubt, do the brave thing."*

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is a character education and writing program for high school students, grades 9 – 12. Students are asked to select a saying or "Law of Life" and to show how the quote applies to their everyday life. The contest challenges students to reflect upon and write about core their own life experiences and values – values such as loyalty, generosity, courage, compassion, and perseverance.

As a signature program of Georgia Rotary Clubs, the *Laws of Life* Essay Contest reaches more students than any other Rotary program in our state. Last year more than 48,000 Georgia teens wrote a Laws of Life essay and the contest presented \$22,000 in award money. Annually the contest generates more than 500,000 media impressions, putting the spotlight on Rotary's emphasis on education, values, high ethical standards and service to others.

Through their writings, students have discovered meaning in simple everyday acts, found the proverbial silver lining in a cloud, recognized their own inner strengths, and learned to value relationships they once took for granted. The essays give students confidence in their potential to live meaningful and purposeful lives, and help students discover the power of the written word.

"Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity you have created for students to share their story. It has allowed me to express my emotions and learn more about myself..."

Little did I know, I would be one of the school winners. It is such an honor. This is an experience I will always cherish and never forget."

- Haley B, School Winner,
Evans High School

The Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest is the sole program of the Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (GRDCEP), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The contest is owned by Georgia Rotary Clubs.

www.georgialawsoflife.org

CONTEST SPONSORSHIP

As a Contest Sponsor your support provides a statewide life changing program for educators and students which encourages students to reflect on values such as those in the Four-Way Test.

Contest Sponsors may also serve as a School Partner, working directly with a school(s) in your local area. Clubs throughout the state are encouraged to participate with or without being a School Partner.

The average cost per school, including student and teacher prize money, school contest materials, essay publication, student recognition, and administrative costs is approximately \$1,500 per year. Your support provides the program free of charge to Georgia Schools.

The contest is owned and operated by Rotary Clubs, and it relies on your support!

School Benefits

The contest provides each participating school with:

- A valuable but cost-free writing program that meets the State of Georgia's mandated character education requirement for grades 9 through 12
- Student prize money, medallions and honorable mention certificates for each qualifying grade level
- Teacher honoraria and awards
- Contest materials such as a Teacher Contest Manual and sample lesson plans keyed to core curriculum standards
- The opportunity to participate in a widely-recognized statewide educational program with significant teacher and student and recognition

Club Benefits

Contest Sponsors gain the following benefits:

- Recognition in the annual essay publication, on the Georgia Laws of Life website and social media sites, and on the contest display board
- Club member volunteer opportunities including serving as an essay judge, a school liaison, or a *Laws of Life* Board Committee member
- Governor citation awards as per club's Rotary district

School Partners gain

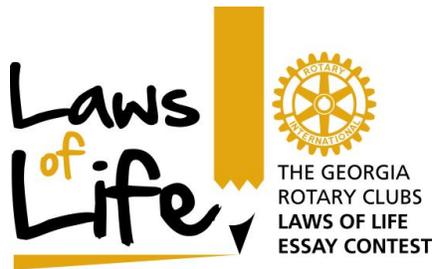
- The opportunity to host a Student Recognition Event which is great for the public image of your club and exposes students, teachers and parents to the ideals of Rotary and the Four-Way Test
- A turn-key character education and literacy program ready to implement in your local community, with statewide coordination and administration provided by the Laws of Life contest.

"The Laws of Life Essay Contest is one of the easiest and yet most meaningful ways for a Rotary Club to establish a strong community-school tie. By sponsoring the contest, a Rotary Club can reach out to the next generation of young people, support its local educators, and make a valuable contribution to character education within its community."

– George Stewart, District 6900
Character Education Chair

"It has been one of the highlights of my career as an educator to be affiliated with the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest. This has been the best character education avenue for students that I know of in the nation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and I know that every effort made to help students will not only benefit them, but our nation and world as well."

– Dr. Sandra M. Grant, Teacher



ROTARY CLUB CONTEST SPONSOR & SCHOOL PARTNER FORM 2017-2018

Club Name: _____ Rotary District: _____

Club's Laws of Life Contest Chair: _____

Chair's phone number: _____ Contest Chair's e-mail: _____

Contest Chair's Mailing address: _____

Club President: _____ Phone or e-mail _____

Our club will serve as a Contest Sponsor: (please indicate desired sponsor level)

Presenting Sponsor*	\$5,000 _____	Silver Sponsor	\$1,000 _____
Platinum Sponsor	\$2,500 _____	Bronze Sponsor	\$500 _____
Gold Sponsor	\$1,500 _____	Other:	\$ _____

* **Presenting sponsors** have special naming opportunities, and have their club listed as a Presenting Sponsor on all contest materials including annual Essay Brochure, student bookmarks and student and teacher award letters.

Our club will also serve as a School Partner:

School 1: _____ Have you contacted anyone at the school? Y N
If yes, please list name of contact person, title, and phone # or email address:

School 2: _____ Have you contacted anyone at the school? Y N
If yes, please list name of contact person, title, and phone # or email address:

Please return your completed sponsorship form by **September 15th**.

WE ARE MOVING!

THIS YEAR IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:

lawsoflife@georgialawsoflife.org

OR if you prefer send picture via text to 404.590.8039

Checks made payable to the Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (GRDCEP) should be mailed to 5005 Spruce Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30350 **by October 1.**

You will not receive an invoice unless indicated here: Yes, send invoice. No invoice needed.

Corporate and Individual Sponsorship packages are also available, and donations can be made online at www.georgialawsoflife.org. GRDCEP is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information contact lawsoflife@georgialawsoflife.org or 404.590.8039

GEORGIA LAWS OF LIFE CONTEST TIMELINE FOR ROTARY CLUBS



Your club may participate in the Laws of Life Essay Contest as a Contest Sponsor at any time during the year. A sponsoring Rotary club may also choose to be a School Partner with a specific school. Only clubs serving as School Partners are asked to meet with local schools. The suggested timeline below is for your planning purposes.

April – May

- Discuss Laws of Life sponsorship with your club's incoming President. This is a good time to discuss possible school partnership. Identify Club Contest Chair.
- Check with the Laws of Life Director prior to reaching out to a school for last year's contest information.
- If the school already participates meet with last year's School Contest Chair.
- If you are meeting with a school that did not participate last year, meet with the school principal and/or the English Department Chair and invite the school to participate using a School Information Package.

June – early-September:

- Ask the school to complete the School Registration Form and to submit the form to **lawsoflife@georgialawsoflife.org and to send you a copy as well.**
- Complete and submit the Rotary Club Sponsorship Form and payment for the year's sponsorship.

August – mid-February:

- Student essay writing begins any time after school starts and continues until deadline.
- Stay in contact with the School Contest Chair to provide support and encouragement.

February – March:

- Schools submit essays to Laws of Life by the mid-February deadline. The state program then selects the student winners from every school.
- Rotarians from your club have the opportunity to help in judging the statewide winning essays.
- Plan your recognition event for late April or early May.

March – April:

- School and State winners are announced.
- Essay Booklets are printed
- Student awards and teacher honoraria checks are issued.

- ✓ **Honesty**
- ✓ **Perseverance**
- ✓ **Gratitude**
- ✓ **Grit**



April – May:

- Clubs host student recognition events and/or present the awards at the school's honors night. You may invite winners to a weekly meeting, or plan a Laws of Life Banquet or Luncheon for the winners. In any case, it is meaningful to invite student winners to read their essays aloud.