

Contest Rules

1. All Falmouth residents in Grade levels 8 – 12 are eligible.
2. Essay must be submitted by individual writers only. Electronically submitted essays accepted at rhs@cape.com up to midnight of Monday, October 5, 2009 OR delivered by 4 PM Monday, October 5, 2009 to: Falmouth Historical Society, 65 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth MA 02540 (side door off driveway)
3. Entries must be 600 words or less for grades 8 – 9 essays. Entries must be 800 words or less for grades 10 -12 essays. Titles and citations, which are optional, are not part of the official word count.
4. Competition theme: Interpretation of “What America the Beautiful Means to Me.”
5. Deadline: October 5, 2009
6. Winners should be available to read their essays at Falmouth Academy on Thursday, November 5, 2009, when the Society will hold a panel on “The Relevance of Katharine Lee Bates Today.”

Guidelines for Writing

Paragraph format

Edited for spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Typed, double spaced, in 12 font

One inch margins on all four sides

One side only

All pages numbered

No illustrations

No cover binder

Title and author on separate Entry Form page

Two copies of each essay, stapled at top left corner

Word count on the last page of essay (600 word limit for graders 8-9; 800 word limit for graders 10 – 12)

Judging Criteria

Judges will use a scoring approach that focuses primarily on the content of the essay, the writer's originality and clarity in relation to the theme, but also will consider mechanics of the essay. Each essay will be read and scores by at least two judges.

RELATION TO THEME (20 points)

Clarity

Shows significance

ORIGINALITY, CREATIVITY (30 points)

CONTENT (35 points)

Analysis, interpretation of the theme

Guidelines for Writing followed

MECHANICS (15 points)

Grammar

Punctuation

Spelling