



2016/17 Historical Writing Contest

Sponsored by:

The Mesa Historic Preservation Board

The contest will be open September 19, 2016 to November 18, 2016

Eligibility Requirements

All students in the 4th through 6th grade, who reside in the City of Mesa, are eligible to participate in the writing contest. Students who have family members who serve on the Mesa Historic Preservation Board are not eligible to participate.

Awards

Every contestant will receive a certificate of participation. There will be cash awards given to first (\$50), second (\$30), and third (\$20) place contest winners. The top three winners will be presented with their award money and certificates at a future televised Mesa City Council meeting.

2016-17 Essay Topic

This year students may choose to write a fictional story based on one of the following topics or to interview and write about the life of a senior citizen who grew up in Mesa. If choosing one of these topics, please have the setting in Mesa and consider what life would be like in Mesa during the time period for your story.

- History of railroads in Mesa
- Holiday celebration in Mesa between 1890 and 1950

Contest Regulations

All essays must comply with the following contest rules before submission:

- Literary form must be either historic fiction essay or oral history.
- Each entry must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking.
- All sources must be properly cited.
- Only one (1) entry may be submitted by each contestant.
- Each contestant must complete and attach a student entry form.
- Each entry will be a maximum of 750 words in length.
- Entries may be typed or neatly written.
- The title of the essay, but NOT the author's name, MUST appear on the top of all pages of the entry text.
- Send a copy to:

John D. Wesley
Acting Historic Preservation Officer
City of Mesa
PO Box 1466
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

- If you wish to send your entry via e-mail, send it to: john.wesley@mesaaz.gov.
- Entries must be postmarked on or before contest due date on November 18, 2016.

- **Entries will not be returned to the author;** they become property of the Mesa Historic Preservation Board. The Board may reprint the essays in publications, on line or use them at workshops. Appropriate citations will be given to the writers.

The Essay/Oral History

The entry can be either a historical fictional essay based on one of the topics listed above or an oral history of someone you interview. Historical fiction is a fictional story with real people and places and imaginary characters that takes place during a time in the history of Mesa. There are many resources available on the internet as well as local libraries, museums and cultural sites to help guide you in your writing. An oral history must be based on an interview with a senior citizen (65 years or older), who grew up in Mesa. The entry must convey their recollections of what Mesa was like prior to 1970.

Judging

A committee of Mesa Historic Preservation Board members will narrow the submissions to the top 10 essays using a rubric to evaluate the quality of the writing. The full Board will then determine the top three entries based on the overall impression of the degree to which the story conveys the history of Mesa.