

National Sojourners 2022 Essay Contest

THIS "AUTHORIZED COVER SHEET" MUST BE **COMPLETELY** FILLED OUT FOR THE **ESSAY TO BE A WINNER!!!**

Prizes

1 st Place	\$3000 Check and National Sojourners Plaque
2 nd Place	\$2000 Check and National Sojourners Plaque
3 rd Place	\$1000 Check and National Sojourners Plaque

Theme – Perseverance

BACKGROUND: In 1944, our soldiers stormed the beaches at Normandy, and the Marines stormed the beaches at Iwo Jima in 1945 wearing a GI shirt and pants, a helmet and an M-1 for protection. In both cases, UDT frogmen hit the same beaches before the landings wearing a pair of swim shorts, swim fins and a bayonet for protection. Our casualties were horrific, but Americans stood their ground and did not give up. Today, the heroes of the pandemic are walking into harm's way wearing a mask and gown day after day with little rest. Despite their best efforts, these heroes kept going as more than 300,000 people (as of December 2020) lost their lives. Grocery workers and truck drivers had even less protection, but they remained in harm's way to make sure we had food to eat. Hard workers who had worked their entire lives lost their homes and could not feed their own families. In each case, they became the heroes of today facing an enemy no less deadly than what our country faced in the past. As the pandemic became progressively worse, our country faced civil unrest the likes of which we have not seen since 1968. While we are facing a deadly foe today, it should be remembered that in 1941, Admiral Yamamoto of the Japanese Navy made a profound statement following the Pearl Harbor bombing to the effect that he feared that all he did was to awaken a sleeping giant. Through the efforts of the American people, his prediction came true. At that time, our country was just coming out of the Great Depression and we were very much on our knees, but we got back on our feet and met the threat. It did not happen overnight, nor did it happen without sacrifice. Again, it will take time and perseverance to overcome our losses. While the loss of a single life is tragic, we have to remember that we survived the Revolution, a Civil War, the Spanish Flu of 1919, two World Wars, Korea, Viet Nam, and a war on terror that is still on-going.

Prompt: Recovery from the challenges of 2020 and 2021 will require each of us to examine what we believe and how each of us will make a difference in our country. As Adlai Stevenson said, "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." As a young adult, what have you learned this past year that will help you overcome the challenges in the future?

Rules & Essay Details Essay contest is open to students currently in the 9th to 12th grades, including home schooled students. Submit essay to your local National Sojourners Chapter by Dec. 15, 2021 using this "Authorized Cover Sheet," filled out clearly and completely. Each Chapter submits a maximum of 3 essays to National Sojourners Headquarters, received at National by Jan. 15th, 2022.

Mandatory - Essay must satisfy the following requirements to be winners - Mandatory

Must be typed, 300 – 500 words long, & include word count; Must cite & footnote facts/quotations & include bibliography

Must include student's name on first page of actual essay and on bibliography [for tracking purposes]

Must be turned into and forwarded by your National Sojourners Chapter to be selected as winners

Student Information – Must Be Filled Out Completely (Continued on next page)

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name: _____

[Please use "nmi" for "no middle initial"]

Home Telephone Number [required for contact]: _____ **Word Count - Mandatory:** _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Address Continued: _____ Email: _____

Your School's Name: _____ **Your Year in School [9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th]:** _____

Chapter Information – Must Be Filled Out Completely

[1st Chapter Hint: Fill Chapter Information out **completely** and **neatly** before copying form for local distribution.]

[2nd Chapter Hint: Please make sure the **MANDATORY** rules outlined above are followed, as an essay does not **compete** if it is not **complete**. Thanks.]

National Sojourners Chapter Name and Number: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Name: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Home Phone Number [required for contact]: _____

Chapter Point of Contact Address: _____

Chapter POC Address Continued: _____