





















## 2009 Character Counts CONTEST GUIDELINES

Dear Essay and Art Contest Chairman:







National FCE members nationwide present an annual contest for all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in public, private, and home schools. National FCE's Essay & Artwork Contest promotes FCE's literacy programs, CHARACTER COUNTS! and community involvement. The purpose of the 2008 contest is to encourage students to understand and practice RESPECT, one of the Six Pillars of Character. The contest encourages students to strive for excellence and creativity in reading, writing, and drawing skills.

### TIMELINE:

#### 1. COUNTY LEVEL:

-   The contest will start at the county level.
  -   The contest runs **September 1, 2008 thru January 31, 2009**.
  -   Each county is responsible for notifying its local schools. It is suggested that the principal of each school be contacted and asked for approval. Contact individual teachers after approval is given by the principal.
  -   Sign and complete the information for the fourth grade teachers. Make a copy for each teacher you visit or contact.
  -   If you choose to inform them of the local and state awards, type an additional paper stating what the awards are.
  -   Retired teachers are a good source for judging the entries. **Each judge should receive a letter stating the contest guidelines and a judging sheet.** This will ensure that judges will use the same criteria on all levels.
  -   County level judging begins February 1, 2008. Local groups and counties may provide prizes and recognition to local and county winners. County prizes and awards should not exceed State and National Awards.
  -   Obtain a permission slip from the county winner. Send this form with the essay/art work.
  -   Each county should forward the original copies of their first place winner to the State FCE Essay & Artwork Chairperson by March 1, 2009.
-   The National 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners' entries will be recognized on the National FCE website, with approval.

### CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. Any 4<sup>th</sup> grade level student in a public, private, or home school is eligible.
2. Entries are to include a short story and a hand drawn picture. Use #2 lead pencil for both. Do not color the picture.
  -   Story and picture should reflect the characteristic RESPECT.
  -   For drawings, use unlined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11.
  -   For essays, use lined, white paper approximately 8 ½ X 11. The essay should be 50-100 words.
3. Students should write their name, his or her teacher's name, and the name of the school on the back of the picture and the bottom of the essay.

**Thank you for your time and effort in helping make this a successful National Family & Community Education Project in Literacy!**