

*This event is not affiliated with or sponsored by Torrington Public Schools or the TPS Board of Education.
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Connecticut Elks Association Drug Awareness Program Essay Contest Information



"Drugs are a Grave Mistake"

2025- 2026 Essay Contest Instructions and Rules

The theme for the 2025-2026 contest is: "Drugs are a Grave Mistake"

Eligibility and Participation Guidelines

- Grade Levels: Open to students in 6th through 8th grade.
- Authorship: Essays must be the original work of the participant. However, brainstorming and discussion with teachers, parents, or peers are encouraged to refine ideas.
- Essays in competition will be scanned for AI or lifting from the Internet. All submissions must be original work by the student.

Submission Format

- Length: Essays must not exceed 250 words.
- Paper Size: Standard U.S. letter (8 1/2 x 11 inches).
- Presentation: Submissions may be typed, computer-generated, hand-written, or hand-printed, maintaining legibility and neatness.

Judging Criteria - Essays will be evaluated based on:

- Adherence to the given theme - Drugs are a grave mistake.
- Overall neatness and presentation.
- Originality and creativity.
- Use of correct grammar and sentence structure.

Required Information - Please affix the following details on the reverse side of the essay:

- Student's complete name.
- Name and location of the school, and grade level.
- Affiliated Elks Lodge name.

PLEASE NO STAPLES. ENTRIES MUST BE FED THROUGH A SCANNER FOR STATE AND GRAND LEVEL JUDGES. STAPLES JAM THE SCANNER.

A signed 2025-2026 Parental Consent Form must accompany the submission.

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Elks Drug Awareness Program

Essay, Poster & Video Contest

Parental Consent Form



My child _____, has my permission to submit an entry to the Elks Drug Awareness Program's Poster, Essay, and/or Video Contest.

I hereby give consent to the use of his/her name, photo, Video, Poster, and/or Essay in the Elks Drug Awareness Coloring Book, The Elks Magazine, or other Elks' publications, or websites (including all forms of media) in furthering the programs and works of charity for the Order of Elks.

I further consent and agree that the Essay/Poster/Video shall become the property of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Parent Name Text

Parent Signature

Witness Name

Witness Signature

This document is required to be signed and dated by the parent/guardian for any person under the age of 18.