2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peacebuilder Contest

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a visionary activist who believed that change could come through non-violent means and by working together to alleviate poverty and create a mutual understanding and love among people. This “service,” he believed, would strengthen communities across the nation. Juliette Gordon Low, had similar beliefs about the power of service and encouraged Girl Scouts to “do a good turn to someone every day; that is, to be a giver and not a taker.”

In honor of Dr. King, we invite you to submit an original piece of creative writing (essay, poem, short story, etc.) or an original work of art (spoken word, theatrical piece, painting, sculpture, etc.) that reflects his spirit and that of Juliette Gordon Low related to the events of 2020. The contest is open to all registered Girl Scouts and is an opportunity to examine how we did as individuals, a community and a country in confronting the issues that impacted the nation. In the words of Dr. King “Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.” We look forward to receiving your artistic or written expression of this theme.

The contest will award three (3) prizes in each of the following groups: Daisy – Junior, Cadette, Senior – Ambassador. The contest will also award one (1) prize to an adult volunteer registered with Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

Essay Contest Rules & Eligibility

The 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest is open to:
Girl Members of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland who are in good-standing with the Council and who are in grades K-12; and
Adult members of the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, who are in good-standing with the Council and who are approved volunteers of the Council.
Prizes will be awarded as follows:
Three (3) girl members in each of the following groups:
Daisy – Junior (K-5)
Cadette (6-8) B
Senior – Ambassador (9-12)
One (1) adult member.
Prize that will be awarded are as follows:
Girls:

All Winners – Complementary registration* for World Thinking Day 2021 AND
1st Place – One (1) Week of residential camp at Camp Conowingo (Max Value: $600.00) OR One (1) Week of day camp at Camp Conowingo with bus transportation (Max Value $600.00) OR Two (2) weeks of Great Adventures Virtual Camp with mailing of supply boxes (Max Value $600.00).

2nd Place – Complimentary registration for full year Girl Experience Subscription Box, which includes four (4) seasonal programmatic boxes with supplies and instructions to complete 7-10 activities that incorporate the four (4) pillars of Girl Scouting (Max Value: $200.00) OR Complimentary registration for two (2) Girl Scout of Central Maryland Programs (Max Value: $200.00, excludes programs offered through GSCM program partners).

3rd Place – Complimentary registration and shipping of level appropriate Badge-In-A-Box, which includes instructions and materials necessary to complete a Girl Scout level badge, as well as the actual badge (Max Value $30.00).

Adult:

Complementary registration* for World Thinking Day 2021; AND
Complementary registration for any Target Sport (Archery, Tomahawk, Slingshot) training; AND
Complementary facility and equipment rental for you to take your troop to one of our properties to participate in age-appropriate target sports (Additional facilitator not included. Subject to availability).

General:

All prizes must be redeemed prior to October 1, 2021.
Compliance with all GSCM safety standards is required.
Prize options are limited to those offered. Prizes may not be redeemed for cash or credit. Options offered may not be equal in value. Prizes are non-transferable. Member must be in good-standing with the council at time of prize redemption.

Winners will be honored at the Girl Scout of Central Maryland World Thinking Day event to be held on February 21, 2021.

*Participants who register for World Thinking Day and are subsequently notified that they are prize winners will be issued a refund. Participants do not need to register for WTD in order to be eligible to participate in this contest.

Submission Deadline: Friday, February 5, 2021 at 5:00pm via the following link: https://intel123.wufoo.com/forms/r1lt795t11l0g5v/
**Requirements:**

One entry per person.

Entries must be original and may not contain inappropriate images or expletives. All written works must be typed in no less than 12pt. font and double-spaced.

The **cover sheet** must contain the following:

- Applicant’s Name;
- Girl Scouting Level;
- Troop Number (if applicable);
- Phone Number;
- Physical Address; and
- Email Address.

**DO NOT INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION IN THE BODY OF ANY WRITTEN MATERIALS OR WORK.**

Entries will be judged against other pieces in the same age group and attention will be paid to originality, relevance, content, creativity, and reflection of the theme.

Theme: “Confronting the Issues that Impacted a Nation Through Service to Others.”

**Prompt**

Write an original piece of creative writing (essay, poem, short story, etc.) or an original work of art (spoken word, theatrical piece, painting, sculpture, etc.) that reflects the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and that of Juliette Gordon Low related to the events of 2020. Examine how we did as individuals, a community and a country in confronting the issues that impacted the nation.

Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors are encouraged to focus on why service to others is important and how service to others in 2020 brought about positive change.

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are encouraged to describe a social justice issue you would like to solve through the idea of service to others. Explain the issue’s significance to you and the steps that you have, or can take, to identify a sustainable solution.

Girl Scout Volunteers are encouraged to describe a social justice issue they would like to solve through their service to Girl Scouts. Explain the issue’s significance to you and the steps that you did, or will take, to make lasting change.
Incomplete applications, applications without a Cover Page, or applications that include the writer’s name or contact information within the body of the essay, WILL NOT be considered.