

Texas Air Force Association Texas; Scholastic Awards

16 Sep 2017

To: **Chapter Presidents and Earle North Parker Contest Coordinators**

Subject: **Earle North Parker program for 2017-2018**

The topic for this year, “Non-commissioned pilots: Historically, who did, and now who does/could pilot Air Force aircraft?” is relevant to our Air Forces past, current operations, and the future.

Our primary emphasis is to ensure we are “inspiring patriotism and/or educating about national security matters” and working on “Educating and Advocating” for our Air Force, Association, and local chapters. We are also honoring what Earle North Parker started by finding and rewarding deserving young men and women who are willing to take the time to enter. Let’s work hard to ensure they all know about the opportunity.

What AFA, AFATX, and your chapter get out of this depends on what you put into this.

Here are the important dates and facts for this year’s Earle North Parker Essay Program.

Due date for entries to State is: January 29, 2018. Please ensure that the appropriate persons in your chapter are aware of them. The subject this year is:

Non-commissioned pilots: Historically, who did, and now who does/could pilot Air Force aircraft?

(See attached sheet designed to be a part of your entry package)

Chapters need to add their own deadline, contact person and address.

- Suggest chapters request entries electronically and hard copy, including the entry form.
- Chapters retain hard copy entry form with original signature unless requested by State.
- Request all entries be sent in Microsoft Word format, preferably 2007 or 2010 format.
- Due date for your chapter’s winning essay and entry form (needed for matching funds administration) to be *received* at State for state judging is **29 January 2018**.
- Method for submission to State is attachment of essay and entry form by email to:

Vance Clarke, 930 Hunters Glen, Rockwall TX 75032, vance.clarke@L3T.com
(call 903-274-9981 if you have any questions)

Food for thought on the program:

The ENP program has enormous potential as a vehicle for chapter community involvement:

- Opportunities for the students are the same for all chapters, large or small at the State level.
- In addition to your chapter monetary award the AFA TX awards are:
 - **1st Place \$2000, and 2nd Place \$1000.**
- Look for a contest coordinator within your Exec Council, Community Partners, or school system. See how you can parlay this for your chapter’s, AFA’s, and Nation’s good!

- Provides an opportunity for local media publicity for the chapter, the essay topics and writing provide education and advocacy for our Air Force, and we have a chance to help a few deserving people who desire to go to college.

Here are some approaches others have used to make their programs successful:

- **Start small and plan for growth.** If you have just a few schools in your service area, pick one or two and try to get something going.
- **Recognize your winners.** Winning something other than a chance to compete at state level encourages potential entrants, and a presentation event strokes the egos of the winners.
- **Solicit participation through personal contact** with Junior ROTC, Boys and Girls Clubs, English, History, or Social Studies teachers.
- **Look beyond public schools for participants.** The program is for high school seniors wherever you can find them. Some possibilities are Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve family support centers, Civil Air Patrol, church groups, parochial schools, scouts, or other special interest groups. A senior is a senior.
- **Keep track of what works** and what doesn't work and include it on your after action report so other chapters can benefit from your experience.

Good Luck,

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