

Pacific Grove Public Library History Essay Contest



Carnegie Public Library, Pacific Grove, c. 1910

First Place: \$1,000, Two Honorable Mentions: \$500 each

Writing prompt

The modern community of Pacific Grove has emerged from a blend of cultures, languages, and traditions of indigenous people and immigrants from Africa, the Americas, Asia, the British Isles, the European continent, the Mediterranean basin, and beyond who lived, worked, and played here.

Write an essay of 1,000 to 3,000 words on any aspect of the history of one or more of these cultures and how they are reflected in today's Pacific Grove.

DEADLINE: October 31, 2023

PACIFIC GROVE LIBRARY HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

RULES AND GUIDELINES

The contest is open to current high school students residing within the Pacific Grove Unified School District, this includes students who attend another high school or who are home-schooled.

Your essay must be submitted electronically in PDF format to pglibraryessay@gmail.com by 10.31.23. Include a cover sheet with your name and contact information. Your name should not appear on the essay pages.

The essay must be your own work. References, including a bibliography, sources, and/or end notes, are required for all material quoted or paraphrased. You may use pictures, diagrams, tables, and/or graphs to illustrate points where appropriate.

Thoroughly research your topic using primary and secondary sources. You are encouraged to take advantage of the historical collections of the Pacific Grove and Monterey Public Libraries, the Harrison Memorial Library of Carmel, and the Heritage Society of Pacific Grove.

The author retains the copyright to the essay and grants the Pacific Grove Public Library Friends and Foundation a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to publish the content and to announce the winners publicly.

Questions related to these guidelines should be addressed to pglibraryessay@gmail.com

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be read and evaluated by at least two reviewers using these criteria:

- On topic—Directly addresses a person, group, place, or event.
- Focus—The thesis/main message is clear and supported throughout.
- Structure—The essay is organized and demonstrates command of grammar, spelling, and mechanics.
- Voice/Originality—The essay uses an engaging and personal style.

The Essay Contest Advisory Board makes the final decisions and can offer more or fewer awards in any given year, including the possibility of selecting no winner.



This contest is one of several programs created in memory of Jean Laws for her love of words, books, libraries, and learning to promote public awareness of the people and stories of Pacific Grove as recorded in the History Room of the Pacific Grove Public Library.