

May 24, 2019

Dear 3rd and 4th Grade Teachers,

The Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission will host a meeting on **Monday, July 22, 2019** to discuss the progress of the **NEW** Junior County Historian Essay Contest.

This meeting will give educators an opportunity to help shape the future of the Essay Contest!

We will discuss potential changes to the program, ways to make it more engaging for students, and strategies to ensure it fits into existing curriculum.

Important Details:

Date: Monday, July 22, 2019

Start time: 10:00 am

Location: Historic Courthouse, 71 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822.

As an educator we would appreciate your participation. By bringing together experienced classroom teachers we hope to reinvigorate this program and create an essay contest that will add to the educational experience. We believe that this working session will be a fun and collaborative experience for everyone involved!

Please e-mail us at cultural@co.hunterdon.nj.us to let us know you are attending. An RSVP is required.
We will send out future e-mails to our confirmed list of attendees.

We can also offer tours of the Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse to anyone who is interested!

*****If you would like to contribute, but cannot attend the meeting, you can still help! Please fill out the attached form and send it back to us. Feel free to answer as many (or few) questions as you would like.*****

Thank you in advance for your assistance. We are looking forward to introducing the **NEW** Essay Contest!

Sincerely,

Christopher Spangler
Program Development Specialist
Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission
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Essay Contest

The HCC&HC aims to re-establish the long held Junior County Historian Essay Contest in a way that is a meaningful and fun learning experience for students, adheres to New Jersey teaching standards, and easily complements lesson plans of participating teachers.

Questions to Consider:

1. What *worked/did not work* in previous years?
2. What changes or additions would you like to see to better align the contest with New Jersey's Student Learning Standards?
3. Would you like to see the topic/theme of the essay contest rotated every year?
4. What capacity do students have in 3rd and 4th grade to relate local (Hunterdon County) topics to broader themes in U.S. history in their essays?
5. The Commission is considering imposing a page limit on essays? Do you agree or disagree? If you agree, what page length would you recommend?
6. Do you have any essay topics in mind for next year or future years of the contest?
7. What changes could the HCC&HC make to encourage teacher participation?
8. **Comments:** What have we not thought of to ask???

Name:

School: