



# Armed Services YMCA of the USA

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**EMBARGO: Media may not announce this until 1 November 2011.**

## **Armed Services YMCA announces guidelines for annual essay contest.**

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** – The Armed Services YMCA **Essay Contest 2012** seeks students who can write about their **Military Hero** for its annual contest.

Co-sponsored by Lockheed Martin, the essay contest promotes reading and writing among children and teen dependents of active duty military or retirees from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, or National Guard/Reserve families.

One \$500 first place and one \$100 second place bond will be awarded in categories for first and second grade; third and fourth grade; fifth and sixth grade; and seventh and eighth grade. Students in two high school categories, ninth and tenth, and eleventh and twelfth, will be awarded \$1,000 bonds for first place, and \$200 bonds for second place.

Students are asked to write about '**My Military Hero**'. Grades eight and below should submit entries of at least 100 words but no more than 300 words. High school students (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) should write essays of not more than 500 words but no less than 300. The essay can focus on any person who is/has served in the U.S. military. As an example, the essay could be about a parent, sibling, son/daughter, grandfather, etc., or an unrelated figure from U.S. military history such as Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton, George Washington, etc. The person need not be well known. They could have been an Army cook during Korea, an Ensign in WW2, a medic in Vietnam or a truck driver in the Gulf. As long as the individual served in the U.S. military the student can write about them. So, from the founding of America to the present, anyone who served can be the focus of the essay. Judges like **creative entries**, where the writer has put some thought into his or her entry. Poetry, stories, and news articles are different formats that have caught judges' attention in the past.

Entries should be **postmarked no later than March 16, 2012** to be eligible.

Send them to:

Armed Services YMCA

Attn: Essay Contest

6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200

Alexandria, VA 22310

All entries should include the official entry form **completely** filled out and found on the Armed Services YMCA website: [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org).

For any additional information not found on the website email the questions to [tharper@asymca.org](mailto:tharper@asymca.org).

Since the Civil War, the Armed Services YMCA has consistently provided educational, recreational, social and spiritual programs to military members and their families. Celebrating 150 years, the Armed Services YMCA, an affiliate of the YMCA of the USA and headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia has more than 80 program locations around the world. ASYMCA – *Making Military Life Easier*.

-END-

The Armed Services YMCA  
Is very proud to announce the

## 2012 ASYMCA Essay Contest!

“My Military Hero”

- ❖ Volunteers will be reading all of your essays and will award the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> favorites in each grade category with a U.S. Savings Bond!
- ❖ Children of all Active Duty or retired (with 20+ years of service) military personnel from Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard/Reserve families in first through twelfth grade are eligible to enter.
- ❖ **Grades 1-8 should write an essay of at least 100 words but not more than 300 words!**
- ❖ **Grades 9-12 should write no less than 300 words and no more than 500.**
- ❖ All mailed entries must have an essay entry form found in this packet and also at the ASYMCA website: [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org)
- ❖ All entries must be postmarked by March 16, 2012.

**Mail Entries to:**

ASYMCA

Attn: Essay Contest

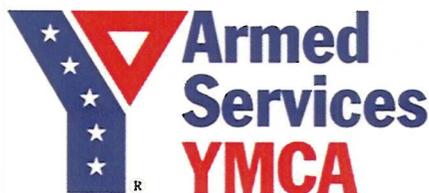
6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200

Alexandria, VA 22310

- ❖ Email Entries may be sent to [tharper@asymca.org](mailto:tharper@asymca.org) by March 16, 2012. Entries must include all the information that is on the entry form!
- ❖ If you have any questions at all please feel free to email [tharper@asymca.org](mailto:tharper@asymca.org)

All of the Essays become property of the Armed Services YMCA  
and will not be returned.

Visit the Armed Services YMCA website at [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org)  
for complete rules and extra entry forms.



**LOCKHEED MARTIN**

Our Proud Sponsor



# 'My Military Hero'

Armed Services YMCA  
Essay Contest 2012  
Entry Form

**Due to the fact that some of your entries may be used for display and publicity purposes, all information must be attributable to the author. This form must accompany all entries and must be filled out completely (either typed or printed). Entries submitted via email must contain ALL of the information requested below. Incomplete forms will automatically disqualify your essay and it will not be accepted.**

Contestant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (must include area/country code): \_\_\_\_\_

Military parent's rank and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Military branch (please circle):

Army

Navy

Marines

Air Force

Coast Guard

National  
Guard/Reserves

Co-sponsored by Lockheed Martin, the essay contest promotes reading and writing among **dependents of active duty or Reserve/Guard military personnel**. One \$500 first place and one \$100 second place bond will be awarded in each grade category 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8. Students in two high school categories, 9/10 and 11/12, will be awarded \$1,000 bonds for first place, and \$200 bonds for second place. In addition, there are two \$100 bonds for essays of honorable mention. Students are asked to write about "My Military Hero". The essay can focus on any person who is/has served in the US military. As an example, the essay could be about a parent, sibling, son/daughter, grandfather, etc. They could have been an Army cook during Korea, an Ensign in WW2, a medic in Vietnam or a truck driver in the Gulf. As long as the individual served in the US military the student can write about them.

This is a contest; not a book report. **Grab our attention!** Grades eight and below should submit entries with a minimum of 100 words and maximum of 300 words. High school students' (9-12) entries should be no less than 300 words and no more than 500 words.

For additional information, visit the Armed Services YMCA web site at [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org), or Email questions may be sent to [tharper@asymca.org](mailto:tharper@asymca.org).

**Deadline for entering is Friday, March 16, 2012.** All entries must be postmarked no later than this date. However, entries **will not** be accepted before November 1, 2011. Email entries to: [tharper@asymca.org](mailto:tharper@asymca.org).

Mail entries to:  
Armed Services YMCA  
Attn: Essay Contest  
6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22310

**ALL ESSAYS BECOME PROPERTY OF THE ASYMCA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**