



Fair Housing: Making Dreams Come True

2018 Fair Housing Month Essay Contest

Open to students in grades six through 12. Essays due April 13, 2018.

April is National Fair Housing Month. Sponsored by the Diversity Committee of the Saint Paul Area Association of REALTORS® (SPAAR), this is an opportunity to learn about, remember and talk about the protections provided by the Fair Housing Act (FHA).

Students are invited to write an essay describing the impact of the Fair Housing Act. ***How has the FHA impacted you, your family or your community?***

Before 1968, doors were closed to many people because of their race, color, sex, national origin, family status or disability. This may affect families with children, persons with disabilities and people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. This discrimination denies people the right to choose where they want to live. The Fair Housing Act opens doors to housing opportunities for many people, by protecting the right to choose. ***How has the Fair Housing Act changed our communities, and made the dream of owning a home possible? Is the FHA making dreams come true?***

What is Fair Housing?

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) was passed by Congress in April 1968. The Fair Housing Act guarantees everyone the right to rent or buy housing on a fair and equal basis.

Who Does the Law Protect?

The Fair Housing Act protects all of us from housing discrimination. The FHA protects us against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, sex, family status or disability. Minnesota law offers additional protections against discrimination based on creed, marital status, public assistance or sexual orientation.

For resources and more information about the Fair Housing Act, visit <https://www.nar.realtor/fair-housing/fair-housing-makes-us-stronger-commemorating-50-years-of-the-fair-housing-act>

Theme: Fair Housing: Making Dreams Come True

Essay Contest Prizes

Grades 6, 7 and 8

1st Prize: \$250.00
 2nd Prize: \$150.00
 3rd Prize: \$75.00

Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

1st Prize: \$250.00
 2nd Prize: \$150.00
 3rd Prize: \$75.00



Commemorating 50 Years
of the Fair Housing Act

See reverse for contest rules and details.

Eligibility

The contest is open to students in grades six through 12 in SPAAR's service area. Only one essay per student may be submitted.

Format and Instructions:

Your essay must include a cover sheet with your full name, email address, school you attend and the title of your essay. Essays must be three to five pages in length. (The cover page and bibliography or resource page are not included in the page count.) Essays should be double-spaced, using 12-point font. Margins for the page top, sides and bottom should be one inch.

Essays must be the original work of the student. You may submit an essay describing your personal opinion and experience or an essay citing your research of this topic or a combination.

Sources relied upon must be cited throughout the essay text. Citations may be in the form of in-text parenthetical citations or footnotes. (Use of MLA style guidelines for citations and bibliographies is preferred.) Essays must use a bibliography listing the full citations for all sources cited in the essay.

Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2018

Essays may be mailed to SPAAR, Attention: FHA Essay Contest, 325 Roselawn Avenue East, Saint Paul, MN 55117, or emailed to SPAAR@SPAAR.com.

By submitting an essay, you are attesting that the work is entirely your original research and writing. By submitting an essay, you also agree that your essay will become the property of the Saint Paul Area Association of REALTORS® (SPAAR) and will not be returned. SPAAR reserves the right to print and display the essays and photographs of the contest winners. Winning essays will be featured on SPAAR's website.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe McKinley at jmckinley@spaar.com or 651-772-6344.

Judging

Essays will be judged on the following criteria: 1. Content (responsiveness to the topic, factual accuracy and depth and quality of research and analysis), 2. Overall organization, writing style and spelling, grammar and punctuation and 3. Adherence to the contest rules.

No particular view or perspective will be imposed on the essays in the judging. Write about what the contest topic means to you, or what you learned from researching this subject.

SPAAR's Diversity Committee will judge the essays and determine A winner. The decision of the Committee is final.

Entrants will be notified of results by May 1, 2018.

