



In conjunction with

Rotary Clubs and **Roanoke College**

Invites Middle School Students of

Botetourt, Craig, Franklin Counties, Roanoke City, Roanoke County and Salem

To enter a **CHARACTER ESSAY CONTEST**

*Other information about the essay contest and **awards** can be seen on the back of this leaflet as well as on the Valley Character website at www.valleycharacter.org*

ESSAY CONTEST TO RECOGNIZE & CELEBRATE GOOD CHARACTER

FOR ALL STUDENTS OF THE “VALLEY CHARACTER” REGIONAL
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Essay Guidelines for Students:

- a) As a topic of the essay, choose one or more of the six traits-- or “pillars”—of character listed below.
- b) Identify a person that you feel possesses the qualities of character associated with the trait[s] you’ve selected. Do not write about yourself or a parent or a coach. Select another person who represents the trait’s special qualities.
- c) Ground your essay in specific examples. Describe the person and show he or she demonstrates the character trait[s].
- d) Comment on the challenges that your subject has faced in maintaining the trait[s] in modern life.
- e) Essays should be double-spaced and should not exceed 750 words.

Focus on one or more of the following character six “pillars” of character.

- **Trustworthiness**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**
- **Fairness**
- **Caring**
- **Citizenship**

WRITING AND JUDGING SCHEDULE

August 19th - The Greater Roanoke Valley Character Coalition (GRVCC) provides contest information to Area Superintendents for transmission to School Principals and encourages superintendents and principals to support the contest at “Back To School” nights and in newsletters and other messages to students and parents.

August 29th - September 2nd - Principals convey information to teachers at staff meetings and to teachers and parents through various other publicity venues.

September 6th - Teachers announce essay contest to students in their classrooms.

October 7th – Students submit completed essays to teachers; teachers submit the essays to school judges. School judges are to be appointed by the school principal.

October 14th – School judges submit names of school winners to district judges.

October 21st –^{District} judges submit winning essays to Regional Judging Committee for selection of the regional winner. NOTE: Winners will be notified before the end of October.

AWARDS

Each individual school winner will receive a **\$100** US Savings Bond and a **certificate**. All school winners will be invited to appear in the Character Education Celebration program at special “Valley Character” night at a Roanoke Dazzle game January 2006.

Each of the six District winners will receive a **\$200** US Savings Bond and a certificate and a **\$1,000** Roanoke College Scholarship Certificate*.

The one Region-wide winner will receive a **\$500** US Savings Bond and a **\$1500** Roanoke College Scholarship Certificate*. The savings bond and certificate will be presented to the Region-Wide winner at a Character Education Celebration at the end of October 2005.

**These scholarships are activated only for students enrolling at Roanoke College and may be renewed for up to four years. In certain cases the awards may be supplanted by other College awards when college policy or federal regulations require.*

2004 Awards

The Regional Winner for 2004 was Tia Mason of Breckenridge Middle School in Roanoke City. See www.valleycharacter.org for Tia’s presentation picture and a copy of her winning essay.

Tia received \$800 in Savings Bonds and a 4-year scholarship to Roanoke College worth \$10,000!

The values of the awards for 2005 are the same as they were for 2004.