



City of Novi Veterans Day Essay Contest

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Attention High School Students!

Participate in our Veterans Day essay contest by choosing one of three meaningful themes to express your thoughts and appreciation for our veterans.

Select from the following themes:

1. The Veteran Next Door

Honoring veterans doesn't have to wait for an event. How can you and/or your generation honor and support veterans present in everyday life?

2. The Uniform and the Person

It's easy to see "a veteran" before we see the person in that uniform. Why does it matter to know veterans as the individuals they are--with lives, passions, fears, and dreams--rather than just symbols of service?

3. When Courage is Quiet

We often picture courage as something dramatic. Write about a quieter, less visible form of courage you associate with military service and why it deserves recognition.

Eligibility: Open exclusively to high school students that live, work, or attend school in the City of Novi.

Submission requirements: All entries must be received by 8:00am, Monday, October 19th. Submit your essays in PDF format via email to kkieser@cityofnovi.org. The subject of the email should be, "2026 Veterans Day Essay." Late submissions or failure to follow all submission and formatting requirements will result in disqualification. No exceptions will be made.

Word Limit: 300-500 words

Formatting Requirements: Submit essays typed in 12-point Century Gothic font and saved in PDF format. Use the provided prompt as your title.

Originality: All submissions must be the original work of the student. AI-generated content and plagiarism are strictly prohibited and will lead to disqualification. Entries will be checked for originality to maintain the contest's integrity.

Judging Criteria: Essays will be judged on clarity, relevance to theme, originality, and emotional impact.

Prize: The contest winner will have the unique honor of reading their essays aloud at the Veterans Day Celebration on November 10, 2026. Additionally, winning essays will be included in the event's program materials. Essay reading will be at approximately 12:45 pm. The winner will be notified via email by Wednesday, November 4.

Judging Panel:

Justin Fischer, Mayor, City of Novi
Mike Longo, Commander, VFW Post 1519
Julie Farkas, Director, Novi Library

For More Information: Contact Kit Kieser, Older Adults Services Manager, at kkieser@cityofnovi.org.

