



**PALM BEACH GARDENS
FIRE RESCUE**

PBG POLICE FOUNDATION
Palm Beach Gardens

September 11th Essay Contest

Palm Beach Gardens Fire-Rescue and the **Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation** have established an essay contest as part of the **Fire Chief's Association of Palm Beach County's** Annual September 11th Remembrance Program. Three individual awards will be made as part of the 2016 event. Funding and final selection decisions are solely at the discretion of the **September 11th Remembrance Committee**.

Applicants should carefully read the guidelines and procedures and provide the necessary information on the appropriate application forms, which are attached.

Fire Chiefs Association of



Palm Beach County

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

The **September 11th Remembrance Committee** does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities, including educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships, and other programs. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the committee's non-discrimination policies:

Compliance Officer
September 11th Remembrance Committee
10500 N. Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
(561) 799-4315

Purpose of the Essay Contest

The essay contest serves as an inspirational vehicle for local youth to strengthen their appreciation of the historical importance of the events of September 11th, 2001 and to improve their understanding of the impact that the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, DC and Shanksville, PA had on our nation.

Contest Eligibility

All applicants must either be residents of the City of Palm Beach Gardens or be the dependents of persons currently employed by the City of Palm Beach Gardens. Active members of Palm Beach Gardens Fire-Rescue's Explorer Post or the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department's Explorer Post are also eligible. Applicants must be in grade 9-10-11 or 12 in the school year that begins August 15th, 2016. Dependents of members of the September 11th Remembrance Committee are **not** eligible to apply.

10500 N. Military Trail ♦ Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 ♦ Tel: (561) 799-4315
eMail: essay911@pbgpf.org ♦ Web: pbgpolicefoundation.org/essay911



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Judging Procedure

Applications will be judged on the following essay criteria:

- A clear understanding of the events of September 11th, 2001
- A well-focused main idea that is developed throughout the essay
- Organized and well-structured paragraphs and sentences
- The incorporation of relevant quotes from original source material
- A clear explanation of national, regional or personal response and/or specific aspects of the response to the events of September 11th, 2001
- A thoughtful, original reflection on the events or the response
- Correct syntax, grammar punctuation and spelling

Please note:

- The application package must be sent by electronic means
- Handwritten essays will not be considered
- Application packages received after the deadline date will not be considered
- Employment information for sponsoring City of Palm Beach Gardens employees will be verified
- Entrants agree to allow the Committee to release the entrant's name, city of residence, and photograph.

All completed applications must be returned to the **September 11th Remembrance Committee** no later than August 15, 2016. Decision will be announced on or about September 1, 2016.

Essay Contest Awards

The **September 11th Remembrance Committee** Essay Contest will include three awards:

- First Place - \$500.00
- Second Place - \$300.00
- Third Place – \$200.00

Prizes will be awarded at the Palm Beach Gardens City Council meeting on Thursday, September 1st and will be in the form of an American Express gift card.

The **First Place** author will have the option of reading his or her essay at the Fire Chiefs Association's Annual September 11th Remembrance Event or having it read for them by a member of the Chiefs Association. This year's Remembrance Event will be held at the Palm Beach Gardens High School on Sunday, September 11th.



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Essay Specifics

The September 11th Remembrance Committee will accept submissions for its 2016 Essay Contest through August 15th, 2016. All students are encouraged to submit an original essay for consideration.

The Essay should be between 500 and 700 words and must be the original work of the student. Titles, citations and bibliographies are not included in the word count. All submissions will be checked using an online plagiarism checker.

Essays must be submitted in MS Word, with 12-point Times New Roman font, 1.15 line spacing and 1" margin on all sides. Please be sure to include your name on your essay.

Essays must be submitted via Electronic Mail to:

essay911@pbgpf.org

Essays must include the Essay Contest Cover Sheet and the signed Signature Sheet (both of which are part of this application package.)

Be thoughtful in developing your essay. The essay is your opportunity to convey your knowledge, motivation and personal characteristics to the committee members who will be making the award decision.

Please prepare your essay using the following topic: "Reflect on how the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 affected our nation and the future of the world."

Judging will be performed anonymously by a committee made up of representatives from Fire-Rescue, the Police Foundation and professional educators. Judges will not include individuals from schools of the submitting students or who have personal knowledge of any of the entrants. Judges notes and scoring will not be made available.

Awards will be based on how well the submitted essay meets the criteria noted in this package.



2016 Essay Contest Cover Sheet

Note: Application will not be considered if the Application Procedures are not followed

Applicant Information

Name (Last, First MI)		Home Phone	
Home Address		Cell Phone	
		Email Address	
Attending	<input type="checkbox"/> High School <input type="checkbox"/> Home School		

Information on parent/guardian who is an active employee of the City of Palm Beach Gardens (where applicable)

Name		Position	
Department		Hire Date	
Supervisor		Phone	

High School Information

Name of School Attending			
Date of Anticipated Graduation		Cumulative GPA	

Scholastic Activities and Community/Civic Involvement

List any high school clubs, organizations and activities, as well as any office or position held

Club/Activity	Office/Position	Years of Participation

List any non-school related community activities/service organizations participation

Organization/Activity	Office/Position	Years of Participation



Documentation and Signature

I have included with my application the following required documentation

- An original 2016 application cover sheet
- An original typed essay

We certify that we meet the criteria to apply for the **September 11th Remembrance Essay Contest** and further certify that all information contained in this application is complete and true. We understand that the decision of the September 11th Remembrance Committee will be final. We also consent to the use of the awardee’s image and essay for promotional purposes.

<i>Signature of Applicant</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
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<i>Signature of Parent/Guardian</i>	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
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APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON AUGUST 15, 2016

The application package must be sent by electronic means

Application will not be considered if Application Procedures are not followed

Please email the completed and signed application along with required documentation to:

essay911@pbgpf.org