**The Montgomery County Commission For Women**

**Women’s History Month**

**2017 *Girl Power* *Writing Contest***

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**Speak Up:** Montgomery County residents of all ages we want to hear from you! What does it mean to be a woman in 2017? Do you bounce out of bed in the morning with a smile on your face? Or does life feel like a bummer? How well are things going at home? At school? Or on the job? What can be better? Submit a short story, a poem, a drawing, or whatever else you can dream up. Limit entries to no more than 500 words. Submissions can be intellectual, emotional, funny, spiritual or serious. We welcome creativity, but please refrain from using vulgarities and racists or sexist comments or images.

**Eligibility:** Anyone from ages 5 to 105 in Montgomery County. Girls, gals, guys – everyone is welcome to share their perspective on life and important issues facing women today. Ladies tells us about yourself or someone else in your life. Guys tell us what you think life is like for your daughters, wives, moms, sisters or female friends.

**Suggested Themes:**  If you’re not sure what to say, think about incorporating some of the following ideas into your entry:

I’m proud to be a girl/woman

Girls rule at school

Battling stereotypes

Breaking the glass ceiling

Body confidence

I can do anything a boy/man can do

My mom/sister/wife/daughter/friend is the definition of a \_\_\_ woman

**How to Enter:** Contest runs March 1st to March 31st. One entry per person. Please include your full name, age, grade, school (if applicable), phone number and e-mail address. Winners will be announced by April 14th. Email entrants include *Girl Power Contest* in the subject line. Mail entrants write *Girl Power Contest* on the outside of the envelope. Entries submitted by minors must include written permission from a parent or guardian and be the minor’s own work. All entries become the property of the Montgomery County Commission for Women and may be used for publicity purpose*s.* For more information: (240) 777-8300.

**Online:** [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CFINKEJ01%5CDownloads%5Cwww.montgomerycountymd.gov%5Ccfw)

**Email**: cfwinfo@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Mail:** Montgomery County Commission for Women

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330

 Rockville, MD 20850

**Awards:** Our team will pick a winning entry from four categories: elementary, middle school, and high school students. We will also pick a winning adult submission. Entries will be judged on creativity and content. The top entries will be featured on our website. Winners will also receive a swag bag, a photo op with Commissioners, and a congratulatory letter from County Executive Isiah Leggett. Each winner will also be a guest of honor at a MCCFW event of their choice.

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

Name of Participant (Please Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(If Participant is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also read and sign this form.)

I , agree as follows:

 Name of Participant

I hereby warrant that I have read the entry rules for The Montgomery County Maryland Commission for Women’s (CFW) *Girl Power 2017 Writing Contest* (“the Contest”) and understand them in full.

I attest that, to the best of my knowledge, this entry I am submitting (“the Work”) is an original work of my own writing and that I have full power and authority to enter my submission under the terms outlined herein.

**Covenant Not To Sue, and Release of Claims**. In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Contest, I agree, on behalf of my family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Contest. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release, indemnify, and covenant not to sue Montgomery County Government, CFW, or any related entities, for any present or future claim, loss or liability which I may suffer, or for which I may be liable to any other person, during my participation in the Contest.

**I have carefully read this Release Form before signing it. No representations, statements, or inducements, oral or written, apart from the foregoing written statement, have been made.** This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland, and all applicable local laws and regulations.

I further understand that CFW has the right to reproduce, display, promote, and distribute the Work in printed or digital form, including but not limited to their websites, newsletters and databases. The CFW shall include in all uses of the Work an acknowledgement of the authorship of the Work based upon the contributor information provided.

By signing below, I certify that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Participant’s Signature: Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I certify that I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above, I am over the age of eighteen (18), and I have the legal authority to execute the above on behalf of the minor.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Participant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_