

MOCOMCON

ESSAY CONTEST RULES & ENTRY FORM

Saturday, January 20, 2024



ESSAY CONTEST BASICS

- You do not need a library card to enter.
- Completed entries are due between **Wednesday, November 1, 2023, and Friday, December 8, 2023.**
- Electronic submissions only. All entries must include both essay and entry form at time of submission, and must be submitted to MCPL.MoComCon@montgomerycountymd.gov by deadline.
- The top three Essay Contest entries will be published for viewing online via the MCPL website. Essay Contest is for ages 8–14. Author’s names will not be released.
- **Deadline** for entries: **5 PM, Friday, December 8, 2023.**

ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- Write an essay, between 300–500 words, about the following prompt: **Tell us about your fandom origin.**
- In this essay, you should answer these questions: What fandom did you first get into and why? How did you get into that fandom? How has fandom made an impact on you? Why is your fandom important to you?
- Essays must be suitable for a family environment. No explicit content, images, words, or weapons.
- Contestants must adhere to all MCPL Guidelines Governing the Use of Public Libraries and Guidelines for Behavior.
- Essay entries must be your own original work.
- Essay Contest is for ages 8–14.
- Limit: one Essay entry per person.
- Before the deadline of **5 PM, Wednesday, December 8, 2023**, submit:
 - One Word or PDF file of the Essay
 - AND**
 - One completed electronic entry form to go with it.

ESSAY CONTEST PRIZES:

- Entries in the Essay contest will be judged on creativity, style, and appeal.
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.
- Essay contest finalists and winners will be notified by email or phone prior to MoComCon.
- Essay Prizes will be available for pickup at the contestant’s selected MCPL library after January 24, 2024.
- All judges’ decisions are final.

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Deadline for entries:
5 PM, Friday, December 8, 2023.

All legal guardians of minor contestants MUST electronically sign this release to participate. (SEE BELOW FOR FULL TERMS)

***Required Fields*:**

Essay Contest Entry*

Yes No

Essay Writer is in the age group 8-14 years old*:

Yes No

First Name of Essay Writer*

Last Name of Essay Writer*

Title of Essay*

Phone #*

Email*

Electronic Signature of parent/guardian*

Full Name of parent/guardian*

Date*

Release for Essay

By submitting this form, I affirm that the essay submitted is my/my minor child's own original work and authorship, and grant Montgomery County Public Libraries the following permissions:

- To display my/my minor child's creative work on MCPL's website, printed materials, and/or its third-party social networking sites. I understand that MCPL cannot control content posted by other parties on third-party sites or possible third-party links to these images. This permission is granted without monetary compensation and for an indefinite period of time.

Release Form for Photo or Other Media Recording

I, the undersigned, do hereby allow Montgomery County, Maryland (MC) and its officers, employees, and agents, and the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC), the Library Advisory Committees, the Montgomery County Library Board and its Subcommittees and other Montgomery County library advocacy groups to take photographs, video or digital recordings of me and my minor children (listed above). I agree that MC or the

entities named above may use these photographs and recordings in any and all media, now or hereafter known, for the purpose of promoting library awareness. I further agree that my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text or commentary. I do hereby assign to Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and the above-named entities all rights to exhibit this work in print or electronic form publicly or privately and to use the images and sounds to promote library awareness. I waive any rights, claims, or interest I may have to control the use of my identity or likeness in whatever media used. For myself and my minor children, I hereby release and forever discharge MC, its officers, assigns, agents, and employees from every claim, demand, damage, right or cause of action of whatever kind or nature which is related to the acquisition and use of the photographs and recordings I understand that there will be no financial or other remuneration for recording me or my children, either for the initial or for any subsequent publication, transmission or playback. I represent that I am at least 18 years of age, have read and understand the foregoing statement, and am competent to execute this Release.

