

MONEY SMART MONTH

"KICKSTART YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE!"

MONEYSMART KIDS ESSAY CONTEST



About Money Smart Month:

In support of National Financial Literacy Month held every April, the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition is hosting Money Smart Month, a grassroots campaign across Metropolitan St. Louis offering free financial education classes and activities to help families learn more about personal finance. Money Smart Month events and activities are designed to develop the knowledge and skills people of all ages need to help manage money and save for the future. The campaign also serves to highlight the need for personal finance education through the entire year. For a full line up of classes, events, and Money Smart Month sponsors, visit our website at www.MoneySmartStLouis.org.

Essay Contest Description:

The 2023 Money Smart Kids Essay Contest is an annual event that takes place during Money Smart Month for students in grades 6-8. Students use their creativity, communication skills, and money management knowledge to respond to a contest question in an essay containing approximately 500 words or less. Classroom teachers and youth program staff are encouraged to use this as a classroom activity to help develop money management skills in students.

Three finalists will be awarded with scholarships made possible by the sponsors of Money Smart Month. The top finalist will be selected as the 2023 Money Smart Kid and win a **\$2,000 scholarship**. The student with the second-place essay will be awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** and the student with the third-place essay will be awarded a **\$500 scholarship**. All finalists will be featured on the Money Smart St. Louis website and in any related news releases.

All essay contest participants will also be asked to identify one organization (i.e. classroom, school or non-profit) to receive a **\$500 award** that can be used to help fund classroom supplies and activities if their essay is selected as one of the top three finalists! These organizations must be designated in the attached application.

2023 Money Smart Kids Essay Question:

What are three steps you can take during your teenage years to help kickstart your financial future?

Important Dates:

January 27: Contest question and guidelines released
April 17: Deadline for contest submissions to be received
May 5: Contest winners notified

Guidelines

Contestants must:

- Be a student in grades 6-8.
- Have knowledge of or be able to research money management topics such as spending, saving, investing, use of credit, etc. at a level appropriate for their age and grade level.
- Demonstrate how they can practice good money management skills in their personal lives.
- Be able to "think on their feet," responding to questions from community leaders and media if asked.
- Live in or attend school in the Metro St. Louis area (Counties include: [IL] Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair; [MO] Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis City, St. Louis, Warren, and Washington).

To Apply:

- Students must submit an answer of 500 words or less in response to the contest question.
- Submissions should be typed and double spaced. Submissions must be the original work of the student.
- Submissions must include an application form signed by a parent or guardian.
- Previous Money Smart Kids Contest award recipients are not eligible for future scholarship awards.
- Essay contest submissions and application forms should be e-mailed as two separate PDF attachments. The name of the attachment should be the child's last name. E-mail to:

E-Mail: essay@moneysmartstlouis.org

- **All submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on April 17, 2023 for consideration.**

All contest submissions become the property of the Money Smart Kid Essay Contest Committee and may be used to promote financial literacy and Money Smart Month with credit given to the student.

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KIDS ESSAY CONTEST**



2023 Kids Essay Contest Application

Instructions: Fill out this form, making sure to include all information requested. A parent/guardian must sign the form and it must be e-mailed to essay@moneysmartstlouis.org along with the essay submission.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

School or Organization Name (*where did you hear about the contest?*) _____

School / Organization Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

We attest that the attached contest submission is solely the work of _____
(Student Name)

Furthermore, I, _____ grant permission for student named above to participate in
(Parent/Guardian)
the activities of Money Smart Month 2023, including consent to release photos and personal information for media and promotional purposes if this student is selected as an essay contest finalist.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

How did you learn about the Money Smart Kids Essay Contest? _____

If my child's essay is selected as a finalist, we would like to nominate the following school or non-profit organization to receive a \$500 award in the name of my child: _____

Name of specific teacher or program leader (optional): _____

School/ non-profit organization address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like e-mail confirmation of receipt for this essay? _____

Please provide e-mail address if different than the above: _____

For more information on Money Smart Month events and activities, visit:
moneysmartstlouis.org