

2012 Elks Essay Contest Winners

Division I 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Submitted by Kristy Morris LCSDA 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 11 years old

### **Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag**

I love being able to have rights; like choosing to be religious, going to school or even to speak freely. People have fought and died to give us a free country, and it is respectful to show you are thankful for what they have done

Some people just say the pledge because an adult tells them to, but I think they should learn what it means, and what it is all about before they really say it. To me, the flag means that we are many people that have come together to create one nation that believes in God. It also means that it doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, you will still be treated fairly, and you are free. It's so much more important than they think, so the flag deserves respect.

I think it is important to show loyalty to the flag and our country. To me loyalty means to stick by something. Or do what you say, so I think we should stick by our flag and our country.

By the way Kristy won the District and State and her essay was sent on to National

Division II 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Submitted by Johnpaul Flores LCSDA 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 14 years old

### **Why I am Proud to Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag**

The flag of the United States is a symbol to the entire world. Each color and symbol has a different meaning to our nation: red is for our hardiness and valor; white is for our purity and innocence; blue is for our vigilance, perseverance, and justice; stars represent the fifty states in our nation today; and the stripes represent the very first thirteen colonies that fought for the freedom of our country. The creator of our national flag designed it with thirteen stars representing the first original thirteen states.

I am proud to pledge allegiance to our flag because of all the history behind it and because of the pledge itself. In this pledge, there are several statements that give praise to our nation, such as, "one nation, under God, indivisible," "liberty and justice for all," "Republic for which it stands," and "the flag of the United States of America." These statements signify what a great nation we have and why we have always fought for freedom.

Our great nation allows all of its citizens to reach for the stars. This is why we lead the world in great many fields such as medicine, science, sports, research and development, etc. etc. Our flag is very symbolic and inspirational. It inspires us to defend ourselves and defeat any foe. That is why I, as an American, am proud to pledge allegiance to the flag of the United State of America.