



Kiwaniis[®]
SANFORD-LAKE MARY

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KIWANIS CLUB OF SANFORD-LAKE MARY
P. O. BOX 296
SANFORD, FL 32772-0296

March 17, 2026

Scholarship Coordinators/Guidance Departments
Seminole County High School Programs

Re: Annual Essay Contest

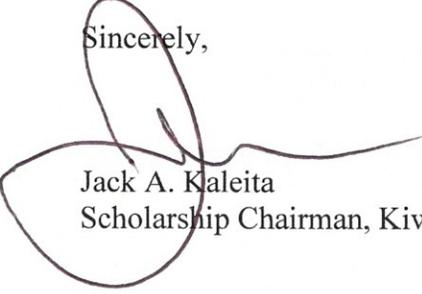
Dear Administrator, Guidance Counselor or Department Head:

Once again this year, the Kiwanis Club of Sanford-Lake Mary is proud to offer the SAMUEL BEAUCHAMP "JIM" CROWE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST to graduating Seminole County high school seniors. As in past years, we are requesting that you post or publish the enclosed information in such a manner as to get the best student exposure for this scholarship opportunity.

It is always our hope that many students will enter the contest. As in past years, the winning essay's author will be awarded \$1000. This money would certainly help many graduating seniors defray upcoming college expenses, especially in light of the rising costs of higher education.

Thank you for your help again this year and please free to contact me at (407) 831-7800 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jack A. Kaleita
Scholarship Chairman, Kiwanis Club of Sanford-Lake Mary





2025-2026 SAMUEL BEAUCHAMP “JIM” CROWE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

- TO:** High School Principals, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and Graduating Seniors from Seminole County, Florida
- FROM:** The Kiwanis Club of Sanford-Lake Mary
P.O. Box 296, Sanford, FL 32772-0296
Contact: Jack Kaleita 407-831-7800
Steve Hartsock 407-322-4854
Email: SanfordLakeMaryKiwaniis@gmail.com
- ESSAY TOPIC:** Volunteer services and the local community. As high school students graduate and prepare to enter society as young adults, they possess special talents they can offer to those in need. What volunteer services can young people uniquely provide that would most benefit their local community?
- DEADLINE:** **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2026** - Must be hand delivered to one of the above club members, received in the above P.O. Box, or received via email by deadline. If submitting by email, please state “2025-2026 ESSAY CONTEST” in the subject line.
- ELIGIBILITY:** **All graduating seniors** from any high school program in Seminole County.
- LENGTH:** **700-1000 Words.** Every word must be counted and the count must be noted on the Title Page. Dates count as one word.
- TITLE PAGE:** There must be a separate title page, affixed to the front of essay and must have ONLY the essay topic, title, student’s full name, school, complete home address, telephone number, and the number of words in the essay. Essays must be original, typed/computer printed, and double spaced. Please do not include transcripts and do not enclose essays in covers. **Any essay not strictly conforming to these requirements, or not received by the deadline, will be disqualified without being read or judged.**
- BIBLIOGRAPHY:** If books, pamphlets, letters or reference materials are used in the research and writing of an essay, they **MUST** be listed. Bibliography listings **DO NOT** count toward essay word limit.
- JUDGING:** All essays will be judged by a panel chosen by the Kiwanis Club of Sanford-Lake Mary, and no essays will be returned. Essays are judged anonymously and no judges will be chosen from any Seminole County Schools. A list of the judges will be available upon written request one week prior to the above deadline. Attached is the score sheet that will be used to rank the essays.



AWARD: The author of the winning essay will receive \$1000, to be presented to the student at a meeting of the Sanford-Lake Mary Kiwanis Club.

ABOUT: Samuel Beauchamp “Jim” Crowe owned a fishing camp on the St. John’s River. He was a conservationist and philanthropist who advocated to preserve the river and protect the shad fish from endangerment. He was a longtime member of the Sanford Kiwanis Club and bequeathed funds to establish this essay contest.

Jim was known as “The Sage of the St. John’s” for his tireless efforts to protect the river he loved, but that was not his only civic work in his community. He was very devoted to the Constitution of the United States and would call out those officials who he believed were not following it.

Almost every week he would be published in a local newspaper stating his position, and the reason for it on an issue of current interest – usually local or state, but sometimes of national interest.

He was a devoted Christian and longtime active member of the Presbyterian Church. He was also proud to have two U.S. Senators in his family tree – one on each side of the aisle, Adlai Stevenson, D. IL, and John Tower, R. TX.

Jim was the personification of a concerned citizen, and this stipend for the winner of an essay contest on citizenship is a lasting tribute to him and his concern and love for our community and country.



JUDGE'S SCORING SHEET
SANFORD-LAKE MARY KIWANIS CLUB ESSAY CONTEST.

Student's Essay Number or Name: _____

Basis for Judging: 1 is the lowest and 10 is the highest (whole numbers only).

Points awarded for each of the following categories:

I. Focus & Details (1-10 points): There is one specific, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information. Provides relevant, substantial, concrete and genuine examples that clearly support the central topic. The writer demonstrates a deep, fresh understanding of the subject.

II. Organization (1-10 points): Introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview. Information is relevant and represented in a logical order. Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the reader's interest. Conclusion is strong.

III. Voice & Style (1-10 points): Author's purpose of writing is very clear and there is strong evidence of attention to audience. Author's knowledge of and/or experience with topic is evident.

IV. Originality & Creativity (1-10 points): Expression of the theme in a creative way. To what extent was the original thinking relative to the topic? Formulates a thought-provoking, well-developed and fairly original position on the topic.

V. Sentence, Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling & Word Limit (1-10 points): Sentences are well-constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes very few errors in grammar, mechanics and/or spelling. Author stayed within the 1000 word limit and the format of the document is neat and double-spaced.

TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____

Judge's Signature _____ Printed name _____