

Echoes of Freedom 2026 Theme

“The Spirit of 1776: How the Ideals of the Founders Still Shape Our Nation”



Age: Echoes of Freedom is open to 9th - 12th grade students who reside in Glen Cove and attend public, private or parochial schools. Home-schooled students are also eligible. Students aged 20 or over, GED or Adult Education students are ineligible.

Deadline: April 30th, 2026

Prize: \$300

Award: Presentation on Sunday, May 24th, 2026 at the Glen Cove Salutes Military Banner Unveiling at Morgan Memorial Park.

What is Echoes of Freedom?

Presented citywide, this contest is sponsored by Glen Cove Salutes and the City of Glen Cove's Veteran Affairs Office to honor the city's military service men and women. This audio essay competition gives high school students an opportunity to write and record essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme.

How Am I Judged?

You will be judged according to the thoroughness of your research, personal reflection of the theme, and clarity of ideas communicated in the writing and recording of the essay.

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

How Do I Get Started?

Complete the official entry form and submit along with typed essay and audio recording to:

Lydia Wen

Email: GlenCoveSalutes@gmail.com

Official Entry Form

Must be completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

() _____ Email _____
Phone

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) _____ Grade _____ Essay Word Count _____

School Name, City, State

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

() _____
Parent/Guardian's Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must be the sole author of your own essay.
- All essays must be typed and double-spaced. Essays must address the official contest prompt and be written in English. Essays must be between 500 - 700 words in length. The essay title or footnotes do not contribute to the word count. Record your original 3 - 5 minute audio essay on an electronic device such as a flash drive. Music, singing, poetry or sound effects are not allowed.

- In no circumstances should contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form serves as your essay's cover sheet. Staple the official Student Entry Form on top of your essay. Contestants may submit only one essay entry during each competition.

- Contestants must write an original essay with limited guidance from others. The overall approach to the Echoes of Freedom theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essays must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.

- All recorded and written essays become the property of Glen Cove Salutes and the City of Glen Cove's Veteran Affairs Office, who will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author. Glen Cove Salutes and the City of Glen Cove's Veteran Affairs Office retain non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of both organizations' programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student participant

Date