

Virginia Council on the Status of Women (VCSW) 2012 STEM Essay Contest

The Council on the Status of Women in collaboration with the Science Museum of Virginia announces the 2012 STEM Essay Contest. First Lady Maureen McDonnell serves as Honorary Chairwoman for the contest.

The purpose of the Council on the Status of Women (Council) is to help women reach their potential and maximize their contribution to society and the Commonwealth as wage earners and citizens. The Council has initiated several projects to meet this goal, one being the annual essay contest for young women in high school. We believe opportunities offered to women early in life will help lead to their success as productive and resourceful citizens.

The awardee will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to an institution of higher education provided through generous donations by [SKANSKA](#), [MeadWestvaco](#), and [NewMarket](#). Other winners are an option and will be announced by the panel of judges. The winning essay will be selected and announced by a panel of judges who have degrees in or work in STEM fields.

This essay contest is being supported by the [Science Museum of Virginia](#) Foundation. Awards will be presented at the 2012 Annual Up & Atom Women's Leadership Breakfast on May 16, 2012 at the Science Museum of Virginia.

To enter, young women should be in their junior or senior year in high school and hold at least a 2.5 GPA. Entries should follow the guidelines and submitted through council.women@dss.virginia.gov. The deadline for entries is 3 p.m. on February 20, 2012. Any entries received after that time will not be considered.

Essay Guidelines

Write about your vision for a future STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) career and why you are considering the field for an area of study or possible career path.

Write an original 700 to 1,000-word essay created exclusively for the 2012 VCSW Essay Contest.

Essays should be written using your word processor of choice and written in English. The minimum font to be accepted is 12 point.

Do NOT put your name, school name or any other personal information in the body of your essay. Enter your name and other personal information only on the designated areas of the form or in the designated fields in the online Official Entry Form. Include the word count at the end of your essay.

Be sure to attribute quotes and any ideas that are not your own within the body of the essay. Do not use footnotes or endnotes. Your essay must include a bibliography of your source material. Do not include the bibliography in your word count. Essays are carefully reviewed by multiple judges and checked for plagiarism.

Proofread your essay carefully. Your essay will be judged topic content, creativity, spelling, punctuation and grammar. Do not include illustrations, graphics, or diagrams.

Fill out the Official Entry Form completely. Incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.

Winners will be notified by April 1, 2012.

Essay (Paste your essay in the space provided below. It will expand to the actual size of the essay).

**Council on the Status of Women – STEM Essay Contest
Official Entry Form**

First Name:

Last Name:

Select: Junior Senior

Address:

City: State: VA ZIP:

Telephone: (999) 999-9999

E-Mail:

Parent First Name: Last Name:

School Information

School Name:

Street Address:

City: State: VA Zip Code:

Telephone: (999) 999-9999

If applicable:

Principal First Name: Last Name:

E-Mail:

Telephone: (999) 999-9999