

# Camp Pendleton Historical Society

## 2025 Essay Contest



*The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is pleased to announce the 5th Annual Historical Essay Contest for high school students living in those school districts adjacent to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton.*

**SUBJECT SCOPE.** The subject of the contest is limited to history of the land now known as Camp Pendleton. This scope includes the pre-history (archeology) of the land, its native American occupants, the Spanish exploration and mission era, the rancho era, and the history of the Camp as a significant cultural and economic institution in San Diego County since 1942. Not included in the scope is military history of Marine Corps units stationed at the Camp as tenant organizations.

*For further details and submission guidelines, visit:  
[camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/education](http://camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/education)*



### ELIGIBLE

High school students living in those school districts adjacent to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton

### PRIZES

1st Place     \$1,000  
2nd Place     \$500

All entrants will be recognized with a certificate and a one year free membership in the Camp Pendleton Historical Society

### DEADLINES

Application Letter Dec. 31, 2024  
Essay Submission Feb. 28, 2025

### QUESTIONS

[essaycontest.cphs@gmail.com](mailto:essaycontest.cphs@gmail.com)  
Place "Essay Contest" in Subject

[www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org)  
Camp Pendleton Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. It is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status.

## ENTRANT REQUIREMENTS

Student entrants must live in those school districts adjacent to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton.

## ESSAY RULES

1. Essays shall be limited to 5,000 words (not including graphic captions, numbered end notes, and bibliography).
2. All graphics (photos, charts, graphs, etc.) shall be numbered, have a caption, and have a specific reference in the text that clearly shows the relevance of the graphic.
3. Essays shall be submitted electronically in English, in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Text is to be double spaced; and pages are to be numbered at the bottom. The font of submitted essays shall be Times New Roman, size 12. The title of the essay must appear in a header on each page. Essays shall be submitted with a cover letter that identifies the author's name, school, title of paper, and the author's address (including email address) and contact phone number. The student author's name or school must not appear anywhere in the essay.
4. One entry per participant.
5. The Camp Pendleton Historical Society reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the essay rules or contains any plagiarized content.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A letter application for entry into the contest containing name, address, school, area of interest, and tentative title of essay is to be received by CPHS by December 31, 2024.

Essays are to be submitted by February 28, 2025. Winner announcements will be made in April 2025 to be followed by an awards ceremony. Details to follow.

Inquiries about the contest, applications for entry and essays must be submitted to [essaycontest.cphs@gmail.com](mailto:essaycontest.cphs@gmail.com). Enter: "ESSAY CONTEST" on the email subject line.

All essays and award photos become the property of the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, and may be published in the CPHS newsletter, *Groundbreaker*, or other professional journals.

In administering this contest the Camp Pendleton Historical Society and its judges will not discriminate in any manner whatsoever, in particular with respect to any characteristic protected by law.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Four criteria, each of equal weight, will be used to judge essays entered in the contest.

1. **HISTORICAL ACCURACY.** Does the essay present verifiable elements of the particular history it treats, using resource material and critical analysis.
2. **HISTORICAL INTEREST.** Does the essay keep a reader's interest in the subject matter, and does the essay establish the historical significance of the subject matter.
3. **ORGANIZATION.** Is the essay organized in such a way that a reader can readily follow the story line presented.
4. **PRESENTATION.** Does the essay make effective use of structural elements, such as numbered sections, numbered end notes, illustrations and charts, and bibliography; and style elements such as syntax, logical paragraph formation, spelling, and consistent capitalization and punctuation (while a style manual is not dictated, it is expected that one of the generally accepted manuals will be used; e.g., the Modern Language Association, the American Psychological Association, etc.)

**JUDGES.** Judges for the contest will be selected from Camp Pendleton Historical Society membership and persons with publishing and academic experience.