

**YMCA of San Diego County / SDG&E**  
**Character Development School Essay Contest Guidelines**  
**October 2009**

1. The contest is open to boys and girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. Please limit essay to one page.
3. Please select only one of the following values for focus: Caring, Honesty, Respect, or Responsibility.
4. The essay must be handwritten.
5. The essay must be done on 8 ½" by 11" notebook paper.
6. **IMPORTANT: Please include the following on the back of each entry:** contestant's name and phone number, grade, school name, school address, and school phone number. Essays without this information will be excluded from the contest.
7. **School/classroom to host internal contest** in order to select county-wide contest nominees.
8. **Submit ONLY one essay per grade level** for entry into county-wide contest and send to the address listed below **by Monday, November 2, 2009:**

YMCA of San Diego County  
Attention: Crescent Prado  
3708 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA 92123

9. County-wide winners will be notified by January 2010. The contest awards are as follows for each grade level:
  - Elementary School - Two Zoo/Wild Animal Park Season Passes
  - Middle School - One year YMCA Youth Membership and \$75 Borders Gift Card
  - High School - One year YMCA Youth Membership and \$75 Borders Gift Card