



President's Leadership Circle

Are you a high school sophomore or junior interested in becoming a member of Mississippi Children's Museum's President's Circle? We welcome your application, and the guidelines for application are as follows:

Student Participant Requirements:

- One school year commitment
- Attend and participate in all components of the program sessions
- Letter of recommendation from teacher, counselor, administrator, partner, board member or community/civic leaders
- Essay of approximately 500 words (see guidelines below)

About the Leadership Essay Contest:

The 2020 – 2021 MCM President's Leadership Circle Essay Contest focuses on the roles of leadership.

Leadership is a much discussed topic. The essay contest will address it from this standpoint, first by confining itself to the views of MCM volunteers, and second by encouraging volunteers to answer questions along the following lines:

- What does leadership look like?
- What qualities and characteristics define leadership for those who are young leaders who aspire to command?
- Can leadership be defined...or only recognized?
- Can leadership be taught...or only learned?
- How can leadership be nurtured?
- What does character have to do with leadership?
- What is the role of mentors?
- Why do so many youth believe their experience as a MCM volunteer changed their lives? Does this awareness inspire them to continue to serve or not?

Prior Publication: Your essay must be original and not previously published (online or in print), or being considered for publication elsewhere.

Submission Guidelines:

- Email essay as a Microsoft Word attachment by **January 17, 2020**
volunteer@mcm.ms
- Include **MCM President's Circle Leadership Essay Contest** on subject line of email
- Include word count (500 words or less) on title page of essay, but do not include your name on title page or within essay
- Provide separate attachment to include biography and complete contact information -- i.e., work, home, and/or cell phone numbers; and home mailing address

Selection Process: The Essay committee which includes MCM Partners, Board Advisors, Education Advisors and Museum staff members will evaluate every essay and screen the top essays. Thirty (30) volunteers will be selected to participate in the President's Leadership Circle Program.

Announcement of the Winners: The winning essays will be announced on January 31, 2020.

Essay Eligibility: Rising juniors and seniors from the Jackson, Mississippi metropolitan area are eligible to take part in this contest.