

About Money Smart Month:

In support of National Financial Literacy Month, the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition, a collaborative of local financial institutions, bank partners, non-profits and other community organizations throughout metropolitan St. Louis have come together to create Money Smart Month. During the entire month of April, the coalition is sponsoring free virtual financial education classes and activities to help families learn more about personal finance and develop knowledge and skills to help manage money and save for the future. Money Smart Month is also a public awareness campaign to highlight the need for personal finance education through the year and throughout our lives. The full line up of classes, events and Money Smart Month sponsors can be found at www.MoneySmartStLouis.org.

Essay Contest Description:

The 2021 Money Smart Kids Essay Contest is an annual event that takes place during Money Smart Month for students in grades 6-8. Students use their creativity, communication skills, and money management knowledge to respond to a contest question in an essay containing approximately 500 words or less. Classroom teachers and youth program staff are encouraged to use this as a classroom activity to help develop money management skills in students.

Three finalists will be awarded with scholarships made possible by the sponsors of Money Smart Month. The top finalist will be selected as the 2021 Money Smart Kid, win a **\$2,000 scholarship and be featured in "On the Money" magazine**. The second-place student will be awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** and the third-place student will be awarded a **\$500 scholarship**. All finalists will be featured on the Money Smart website as well.

The three finalists are also given the opportunity to select one non-profit sponsor (i.e. specific classroom or community organization) to receive an additional **\$500 award** to help fund classroom supplies and activities! These organizations must be designated in the attached application.

2021 Money Smart Kids Essay Question:

What have been the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in your community? How could we better prepare for these types of financial hardships in the future?

Important Dates:

February 26: Contest question and guidelines released
April 16: Deadline for contest submissions to be received
May 10: Contests winners notified

Guidelines

Contestants must:

- Be a student in grades 6-8.
- Have knowledge of or be able to research money management topics such as spending, saving, investing, use of credit, etc. at a level appropriate for their age and grade level.
- Demonstrate how they can practice good money management skills in their personal lives.
- Be able to "think on their feet," responding to questions from community leaders and media if asked.
- Be articulate when speaking in front of large groups and cameras if necessary.
- Live in or attend school in the Metro St. Louis area (Counties include: [IL] Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair; [MO] Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis City, St. Louis, Warren, and Washington).

To Apply:

- Students must submit a written answer of 500 words or less in response to the contest question.
- Submissions should be typed and double spaced. Submissions must be the original work of the student.
- Submissions must include an application form signed by a parent or guardian.
- Previous Money Smart Kids Contest award recipients are not eligible to participate.
- Essay contest submissions and application forms should be e-mailed as a PDF attachment. The name of the attachment should be the child's last name. E-mail to:

E-Mail: essay@moneysmartstlouis.org

- **All submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on April 16, 2021 for consideration.**

All contest submissions become the property of the Money Smart Kid Essay Contest Committee and may be used to promote financial literacy and Money Smart Month with credit given to the student.

Application

Instructions: Fill out this form, making sure to include all information requested, have a parent/guardian sign the form, and attach it to the submission.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

I vouch that the attached contest submission is fully and solely the work of my child, _____
(Student Name)

and grant permission for my child to participate in the activities of Money Smart Month 2021, including consent to release photos and personal information for media and promotional purposes if selected as a contest finalist.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

How did you learn about the Money Smart Kid Contest? _____

If my child's essay is selected as a finalist, I would you like to identify the following school or non-profit organization to receive a \$500 award: _____

Name of Specific Teacher or Program leader (optional): _____

School/ Non-profit organization address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like e-mail confirmation of receipt for this essay? _____

Please provide e-mail address if different than the above: _____