



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

is pleased to announce its annual

International High School Essay Contest

As a mandated element of the Annual International Achievement Week Observance

Contest Closes: October 16, 2026

CHI RHO CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 471

WHEATLEY HEIGHTS, N.Y. 11798

ESSAY is below:

“How can young people use leadership, service, and innovation to create positive change in their communities?”

Eligibility & Rules

The Contest is open to **all college-bound African American and Hispanic high school seniors in Suffolk County** who submit an essay application through Chi Rho Chapter of the Fraternity.

The essay must be original and neither previously published nor secured by copyright. The essay must be between 700 and 750 words in length. The type-written, double-spaced essay may be submitted via postal service or email in Microsoft Word.

Submission Process

All submissions will be reviewed by your local Chapter (determined by your high school/home address). Submissions will not be accepted after **October 16, 2026**.

The following information for the contestant must appear on the first page in this manner:

Title: _____

An Essay By: _____ Home Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____ Name of High School: _____

Address of High School: _____

Student Email: _____ Phone _____

Contest Name: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity International High School Essay Contest

Name of Sponsoring Chapter: Chi Rho Chapter. Location of Chapter: Suffolk County

The manuscript must be **postmarked**, or **time stamped** on the email not later than midnight, **October 16, 2026**, and sent to Chi Rho Chapter at chirhchapter1965@gmail.com.

Rating Criteria

All local Chapters will assemble a review panel to assess submitted essays based on the following criteria. Essays may earn a maximum rating of 100 points.

1. Development of Topic/Thesis: (30 possible points)

Topic is well-developed (covers and develops major points, supplying enough information for understanding).

2. Progression: (20 possible points)

Composition progresses from beginning to end in a logical flow of information.

3. Readability: (25 possible points)

Concise prose that sticks to the point and does not ramble (holds reader's attention).

4. Grammar: (15 possible points)

Agreement of subject and verb; proper tense; correct sentence construction; paragraphing, including transitional phrases linking same.

5. Spelling: (5 possible points)

6. Punctuation: (5 possible points)

Additional Information

*Persons submitting manuscripts thereby **grant** to the **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** the right to keep the manuscripts and to exercise full publishing rights to them. The Chi Rho Chapter's first place winner will represent the chapter at the Second 2nd District level, with an opportunity to win more scholarship awards and move on to the international competition to compete for additional scholarship awards.*

Chi Rho Chapter Local scholarship awards:

1st = \$300

2nd = \$200

3rd = \$100

The winner of the 2nd District will compete at the international level for the following scholarship awards.

Four (4) College Scholarship Awards:

1st Scholarship: \$5,000; 2nd Scholarship: \$3,000; 3rd Scholarship: \$2,000; 4th Scholarship: \$1,000

The decision of the judges will be final. The manuscripts must present an adequate treatment of the essay topic.

Winners may be required to furnish written proof that they were enrolled in their respective high school at the time the essay was submitted. Awards will be submitted to each winner, upon written verification from an institution of higher education that the individual has enrolled. Actual enrollment (not just acceptance) is required. Awards must be claimed within 18 months after the announcement date to be valid.

You can also download a copy of the application from our website at www.chirhochapter.org.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS: OCTOBER 16, 2026

Local Chapter Contacts

*Local Chapter Name: **Chi Rho Chapter**, Email: **chirhochapter1965@gmail.com***

Brothers: Leonard Wright/Clyde Braswell/Joe Cruz