“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!”

Astronaut Neil Armstrong spoke those words as 600 million people watched on television when he became the first person to set foot on the moon. His steps marked the end of a remarkable political and scientific effort. On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy asked Congress to commit to putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade. When Apollo 11 launched from Cape Canaveral with Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins onboard, it had one objective: “Perform a manned lunar landing and return.” The moon landing effectively ended the “Space Race,” which began 12 years earlier when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik. July 20th, 2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of this impressive achievement. To recognize the commitment and the bravery of the men and women who made this remarkable achievement possible, The Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center asks:

“How important do you feel it is for our nation to continue to pursue and fund future space exploration programs and projects?”
2019 High School Essay Contest!

Many questions surround the future of space exploration. Is it necessary? Is it worth the cost monetarily or in terms of human life? Should it be regulated, privatized or militarized? Those are all things to consider as you write your essay. From your point of view; tell us how important you think our nation’s commitment to space related programs should be. Programs like NASA, The International Space Station, and “Space Force” will shape and affect your future and that of the world itself. Relate the pros and cons of these pursuits and let us know how you feel about America’s future ventures into the vast expanse of space.

**Here is what you do:**

In your own words create an **Original Persuasive Essay** telling us what you feel the role of our nation should be in the future of space exploration and administration. Explore the pros and cons of the topic and share your stance in 750 words or less.

*Remember to be as original and creative as possible.*

**Awards!**

The Center will select the top essay and award the author a **$250 cash Grand Prize**. A first and second runner-up will be selected and each awarded a **$50 cash prize**. The Center will also select three Honorable Mention entrants who will receive a consolation prize. All awarded essays will be posted on the Bong Center’s Website.
Guidelines, Formatting Requirements and Submission

Instructions

• Contest is open to all students in grades 9-12 residing in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

• Your essay must be 750 words or less.

• Your Essay must be original- **no plagiarism.** Essays will be disqualified if largely copied from another source.

• Only one essay per student may be submitted.

• All essays should:
  - Be double spaced
  - Have a one-inch margin
  - Include page numbers
  - Include an essay title
  - Be typed in 12-point font
  - Be in Microsoft Word, Google doc or PDF format

*Essays may be emailed, along with the required student information, to the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center – Education Outreach Coordinator [gidley@bvcenter.org](mailto:gidley@bvcenter.org)*

You may also mail them to or drop them off at:

The Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center
305 Harbor View Parkway
Superior, WI 54880
Student Information

Please complete the following student information and email, along with your essay, to:
John Gidley—Education Outreach Coordinator
Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center
gidley@bvcenter.org

The Deadline is Friday April 26th, 2019 at 5:00 PM

First Name:
Last Name:
Grade:
School name:
School Address:
City/Town of residence:
State:
Zip Code:
Teacher’s Name:
Teacher’s school email address:
Name of Parent or Guardian:
Parent Email address: