



2016 Letter to My Parents™ Contest in Chicago



Invitation: Trip to Japan Prize Essay Writing Contest

Durango Unido en Chicago and Reiyukai America invite teens and youth to Win a Trip to Japan and other variety of prizes!

Who can participate?

Anyone between 17-23 years old living in the State of Illinois can have a chance to participate in the 2016 Letter to My Parents™ Contest!

What to do?

A contestant must write a letter to his/her parents with a constructive proposal with an intention to maintain or improve your family relationship!

What to write?

The following guiding questions can help the contestants write their letter.

- How have my parent's experiences and influence affect or shape the person I am today?
- What my parent(s) or guardian(s) means to me?
- What are my thoughts about how we are as a family?
- What would I like to do for my parent(s) or guardian(s)?
- How I can improve relationships in my family?

Time Schedule

Our tentative working schedule is as follows.

January 20, 2016: Official Guidelines for the 2016 will be available online

February 19, 2016: Last Day of Submission

March 2016: Selection of Finalists and Final Presentation (Time and Place TBA)

Suggestion to Educators

This is a great way to know more about your students! The letter allows the students to unveil a portion of their life which will be informative for an educator to know more about his/her students!

Please encourage your students to be part of this contest as a homework, class project or an extra credit!

For more information, check out the official guideline in the back!

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2016 Letter to My Parents™ Contest in Chicago

Participation Guideline

1. INVITATION

It is impossible to live fulfilled lives without our parents. Family has always been the basis of society. Family unity is what helps people grow both as individuals and as members of society. However, today—in the more individualistic society we live in—it seems that the role of the family is changing.

The Durango Unido en Chicago and Reiyukai America is pleased to invite teens and youth living in the State of Illinois to participate in the 2016 Letter to My Parents™ Contest in Chicago with a vision and a strong wish to maintain a healthy family relationship or to make an improvement within the parent-child relationship.

2. PROCEDURE

To participate, a contestant must write a letter dedicated to his/ her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and submit it to the Organizing Committee. The submitted letters will go through several selection processes in order to be accepted for the final presentation. The letters that qualify for the final stage will be read by the original writers in front of the judges who will select the three winners.

3. PRIZES

The ten finalists will be receiving the following prizes.

- A \$50 Gift Certificate.
- An opportunity to be published in digital and print format.
- A certificate of participation.
- A year-long test prep course subscription courtesy of BenchPrep.

The judges will be selecting a winner for a trip to Japan as a member of "US-MEXICO-JAPAN Youth Exchange Program 2016" (Trip Dates TBA) with transportation and lodging fully paid. (If, for personal reasons, the winner is not able to travel outside of the United States – he/she will receive a scholarship of \$1,000.00.)

More prizes will be announced later!

4. PARTICIPATION

Participants will be individuals between the ages of 17 to 23 residing in the State of Illinois. Be aware that participants 17 years old or under must submit a Parental/Guardian Consent Form giving them permission to participate in the contest.

5. WRITING A LETTER

The submitted letter must be written under a positive intention of maintaining a healthy family relationship or to improve the current family situation.

5.1 Guiding Questions

A contestant is requested to submit her/his work illustrated with concrete examples from his/her personal family life—reflecting the family relationships and interactions.

The participant may use one or more of the suggested guiding questions to write the letter:

- How have my parent's experiences and influence affect or shape the person I am today?

- What my parent(s) or guardian(s) means to me?
- What are my thoughts about how we are as a family?
- What would I like to do for my parent(s) or guardian(s)?
- How I can improve relationships in my family?

5.2 Structure

The submitted letter must:

- include the name(s) to whom it is addressed.
- narrate one or more significant family experiences.
- include a proposal—either implicit or explicit, suggesting how to improve or to maintain a positive relationship in the family. A proposal can be considered as the new family tradition that a contestant would like to bring in to the family

5.3 Language

The participant may choose one or combine languages that are used in the State of Illinois. If any other language besides English is used, the participant is responsible to provide the English translation.

5.4 Format

Each work submitted must not exceed more than 1000 words. If the work is submitted via email, they must meet the MLA writing format.

5.5 Content

Each participant must submit a letter that is clear, honest, sincere, completely written in one's own words, and based on his/her personal experiences. Letters based on fictitious events or happenings will not be accepted.

6. ENTRY INFORMATION

The participants may submit their work either at our website or via email

6.1 Online

Log on to the following website and click on the Chicago contest logo!

www.LetterToMyParents.com

6.2 E-Mail

Send your email including the following:

- Original Letter (Preferably in Microsoft Word docx format)
- Scanned Copy of official US identification (e.g. driver license, school ID, or passport)
- Registration Form
- If you are 17 years old and under, do not forget to include Parental/Guardian Consent Form signed by your parent/guardian. Registration Form and Parental Consent Form are downloadable from the website or you can request it via email.

7. STRUCTURE OF THE CONTEST

7.1 First Stage

Participants will be allowed to submit their work starting on December 28, 2015

Participants will have until 17:00 on February 19, 2016 to submit their letters.

7.2 Semifinal Stage

The letters that have been submitted will pass through an elimination process by which the ten letters that best reflects on the guiding questions will be selected no later than March 11, 2016.

The contestants who made through the final stage will be contacted by the Organizing Committee via email or phone.

7.3 Final Stage

The finalists will be reading aloud their letters they submitted without altering or modifying the content at the Final Presentation. Location of the venue and the time and date will be announced later.

If the letter was not written in English, there will be simultaneous translations during the reading.

The judges will then determine the award recipients. The judges will consist of people that are recognized for their moral and intellectual reliability and will be chosen by the organizing committee, and their decisions will not be appealable.

8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By participating at the contest, each contestant will understand and agree to the following Terms and Conditions.

- Each contestant must follow the guidelines.
- Submitted letter is their own work and no part of the letter was taken from difference resources unless stated.
- Submitted letter will not be returned and will be property of the Letter to My Parents™ Contest Organizing Committee, in which the letter may have the possibility being published in newspapers, web pages, electronic mails, magazines, as well as being presented/displayed in radio programs, television and in future events possibly organized by any of the Organizing Committee member.
- Contestants from previous years may participate by submitting a different letter.
- The Organizing Committee will not be responsible with any family issue that may arise due to the content of the letters.

9. CONTACT

For any questions regarding the contest, contact through the following:

Phone: (773) 837-5478 (Look for Tomoko)

Email: info@lettertomyparents.com

10. MISCELLANEOUS

Any unseen issue will be resolved by the Organizing Committee.

11. ORGANIZERS

Durango Unido en Chicago
Reiyukai America

12. SPONSORS

Pilsen Wellness Center
I.C.R.E Roosevelt
BenchPrep



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I, _____, allow the participation of my son/daughter _____ to the 2016 Letter to My Parents™ Contest in Chicago. I have read and reviewed all of the details and agree in fulfilling upon all the rules and requirements that the Organizing Committee of the 2016 Letter to My Parents™ Contest in Chicago mentions.

I understand that the letter of my son/daughter will not be given back and will become the property of the Organizing Committee of the Letter to My Parents™ Contest in whom the letter will be susceptible to being published in newspapers, web pages, electronic mails, magazines, as well as being presented/displayed in radio programs, television and in events possibly organized by the Organizing Committee.

I accept that the Organizing Committee will not become the person in charge with the contents of the letter and the implications that may occur due to the content submitted.

Signature of the Parent/Guardian_____

Signature of the Contestant_____

Date_____