



Pennsylvania Dutch Essay Contest

Nothing tops the good old-fashion summer fun to be found at the Kutztown Folk Festival! This family-oriented festival celebrates Pennsylvania Dutch folk-life, and attracted more than 130,000 visitors in 2019. Since 1950, the Kutztown Folk Festival is the oldest, continuing folk-life festival in America. The Festival has again been selected as one of America's Top 100 Events by the ABA, was named as a "Must See" festival by the *Washington Post*, and listed as one of the Nation's Top Festivals by *USA Today Magazine*.

The Kutztown Folk Festival is sponsoring an essay contest for school students. We are asking students to write an essay addressing the topic of the importance of Pennsylvania German history and culture in their lives. The essay can be personal, based upon the writer's own family or individual experiences; or it can be more general, describing the influences of Pennsylvania German culture in our region or the nation. We will also be interested in essays that take other approaches to the topic. Essays should be typed and limited to about 500-1,000 words (three pages) or less. There will be three categories for entries: 4th through 6th grade; 7th through 9th grade; and 10th through 12th grade. Some entries will be selected and their authors asked to read their essays at a time to be determined on the Seminar Stage at the Kutztown Folk Festival from June 29 – July 7, 2024. First prize in each category is **\$50**; other selected entries will be given small prizes and a certificate.

Essays should include a title, the student's name, grade, teacher (if assigned as part of a school project), school and a contact phone number. It will also be helpful to have the student's home address. **The submission deadline is May 15, 2024.**

Essays should be sent to:

Kutztown Folk Festival Essay Contest
Bill Donner
Anthropology Department
Kutztown University
Kutztown PA 19530

Or
donner@kutztown.edu