

NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

EARLE NORTH PARKER ESSAY CONTEST

School Year 2020 – 2021 Entry Form

ADDITIONAL DATA

The US Space Force was authorized by the National Defense Act in Fiscal Year 2020, with a startup budget of \$40 million approved by congress. The request for a 2021 operational budget is \$15.4 billion. The idea for a Space Force has been pushed by the president since 2018, to coordinate and ensure full-time dedication at a major component level of the Department of Defense. Unfortunately, exactly what this means is not widely understood by many citizens.

And numerous challenges befall a new U.S. service; budget, names, ranks, and even what to call their members. Your focus should be on why and what we need a “space force” for, but these issues are also of interest for the new force.

Your challenge for this topic is to sort out what is supposed to be happening and why at a very high, general level, and then to assess pros and cons of the options and to take a position and defend it — in just two pages.

A critical challenge will be to limit your suggestions to one or two of the possibilities to enable you to research and support your position in only two-page essay.

Possible research sources include the AFA website, newspapers, magazines and many others. A challenge it is, and we wish you the best!

Things to consider:

In answering the theme question, remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Your challenge is to research your facts, pick and define the position you will discuss, and frame your response within the two-page limit, while supporting why you feel this position is important to national security.

There are numerous sources of information: news broadcasts, talk shows, newspapers and magazines, and of course, the internet. Find appropriate support, and turn it into a well-documented opinion. The Air Force Association website at www.AFA.org has a wide range of well-done articles on both aspects of the question, as does the Air Force website, www.af.mil, and there are many more than we can possibly mention. We know you are bright, talented, and able! We look forward to your response.

Good luck and thanks for your interest!

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Name of Participant: (Please print – First – Middle – Last)

Address: (Please print: Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Home/Cell Telephone: _____ School: _____

Parent / Guardian Name(s): _____

E-Mail Contact for Student: _____

ESSAY TOPIC – Define and support your position on the following topic:

The US Space Force: What and Why?

(See attached sheet with additional information and data on the topic.)

CONTEST RULES:

- Participants must be a **senior in a State of Texas High School** (or at senior level if home schooled).
- Essays must pertain to the Essay Topic shown above; ensure you read and use attached info.
- Font size will be **12 point** and margins will be **1 inch on all sides**.
- Reference material will not be included in the essay, but sources may be mentioned.
- Essays must be no more than **two-pages** and be typed, double-spaced, on 8½ x 11-inch white paper.
- Participant name will be typed in the upper right corner of each page of the essay, submitted as part of the contest entry. Pages must be **numbered sequentially**, at the bottom of each page
- Essay topic must be typed, centered at the top of page one of the essay, two spaces above the first line of the first paragraph
- All information required on this form (above) and signature below must be provided
- Grammar and proper punctuation will be scored
- Contest entry form and the essay must be emailed by **January 15, 2021**
- All participants **must sign the release below**, and include it with the entry form

I hereby grant permission to the Air Force Association, chapter, state of Texas and AFA National, to publish in any publication of its choice, any essay and related materials or information I submit.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return entry form by email:

Attn: Vance Clarke
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AFA 416 Northeast Texas
PO Box 8633
Greenville, TX 75404-8633

Prizes:
1st Place – \$2,000
2nd Place – \$1,500
3rd Place – \$1,000