



As part of Jefferson County's celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the Monticello News is sponsoring writing and art contests for residents in preschool through twelfth grade. Top winners in each category will receive trophies/ribbons and have their entry published in the newspaper.

## Writing Contests

*Maximum length is 350 words.*

### **Elementary**

Write a short story using at least five words from the following word bank: watermelon, fireworks, flag, parade, thunderstorm, splash, race, tunnel, cousins, bicycle, friend, dog, stars, stripes, sparklers, eagle, barbecue.

### **Middle School**

Write a letter to an imaginary friend who lives in another country. Explain why Americans celebrate Independence Day, and describe five things you like about living in America.

### **High School**

What does freedom mean to you? Discuss five ways you can joyfully and responsibly exercise your freedom.

## Art Contests

*Finished art should be no smaller than letter size (8.5" x 11") and no larger than regular poster size (24" x 36").*

### **Elementary**

Draw, label and color a design for decorating a bicycle, tricycle or pedal car for the Fourth of July.

### **Middle School**

Create a mosaic of the American flag using pieces of pictures from magazines.

### **High School**

Create a painting or drawing that depicts a Fourth of July celebration scene.

## Rules:

1. Entries must be completely the original work of the individual contestant. No AI generation or assistance allowed.
2. Adults may assist contestants only by clarifying the contest prompt and providing materials, tools, space and time to work.
3. Each entry should have a title.
4. Entries must be delivered to the Monticello News office, located at 180 W. Washington St., by noon on Friday, May 1, to be eligible for winning.
5. Entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form (below) with information about the contestant and a statement of authenticity signed by the contestant.