



2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest



January 7, 2017

Dear Educators,

In February 1997, I organized a community leader's briefing attended by 120 community leaders including then CPS CEO **Paul Vallas** and former Chicago Bears and now NFL Hall of Famer, **Mike Singletary**. We made reference then to a U.S. Department of Education study indicating that when both parents are involved in the educational lives of their child, educational outcomes soar and many of the issues that plague society decline. You've known it all along that **GREATER FATHER INVOLVEMENT = GREATER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**. In October of this year I gave a TEDx Talk entitled: *Why We Need To Break The Cycle of Father Absence*. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CDeMgmeb94>.

A special thank you to all who have previously participated. To-date and with the engagement of education leaders, like yourself, we've collected more than 400,000 essays from more than 500 schools, engaging well over 10,000 volunteer evaluators and annually recognizing 156 essayists in May and 12 dads each June. Remember, every child is a winner receiving a Certificate of Participation signed by the Governor and a coupon sheet with activities to further connect with dad.

We are pleased to be partnering with Illinois PTA to expand the reach of the essays contest. Here are the highlights for the 2017 essay contest.

- The top 25 participating schools will receive a Starter Kit of Fathering Resources,
- All dads who provide a "dad's response" to their child's essay will become charter members in the new **IFI 21st Century Dads Club**, and
- The deadline for submission is **March 15, 2017**.

Included here is all the information for the **2017 IFI Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest**. You can also download the information from our website at: www.4fathers.org.

Do your students and our volunteer administrators a favor and please type the school name, school name, and school phone number on pages E & F (the official entry forms) before duplicating.

This will save time and ensure proper identification.


Remember the essay contest is just one way to encourage good writing skills and engage dads. To get a broader understanding all IFI has accomplished please watch the video at www.4fathers.org. We're committed to helping improve educational outcomes through greater father involvement.

THANK YOU for being part of the solution. Questions, please email 4fathers.sneed@gmail.com. Also see the reverse for a copy of last year's coupon sheet. Good luck and God bless!!!

David Hirsch, founder
Illinois Fatherhood Initiative



2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest

ILLINOIS FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE
2016 IFI / CHICAGO WHITE SOX
ILLINOIS FATHERHOOD ESSAY CONTEST COUPON SHEET

Thank you to all students who submitted an essay
"What My Father Means To Me"

Visit us at www.4fathers.org Follow us on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/25N1oYA>



The Chicago White Sox congratulate all **2016 essayists** and look forward to welcoming the finalists to U.S. Cellular Field this season.



\$4 OFF
 Any purchase of \$30.00 or more

Valid at: Blue Island-Western, Blue Island-Kedzie, Merrionette Park, Lansing, Oak Forest, Richton Park, New Lenox, Orland Park, West Loop and Bourbonnais Locations only.
 Expires July 31, 2016

At participating locations. Price must be met before tax. Please mention coupon when ordering. One coupon per order. Not good with any other offer. Code: DAD5OFF

Visit www.beggarspizza.com for location information.

KANE COUNTY COUGARS

Buy one reserved seat ticket, get one reserved seat ticket free!

Any date during the 2016 regular season EXCLUDING Saturdays and July 31

This ticket cannot be redeemable online only and not at the 17th Third Base Box Office. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount.

To purchase your BOGO tickets, please visit us at kccougars.com and use special offer code IFI.

Maximum of 10 tickets per order.



kccougars.com

DUPLICATIONS OF THIS COUPON ARE NOT ACCEPTED REF:IF



Join the Chicago Sky and WNBA MVP Elena Delle Donne throughout the 2016 season.

For a list of games and to purchase tickets, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ILFI2016> & use Promo Code IFI2016

Please note, this offer is good for online purchases only and cannot be redeemed at the Allstate Arena box office. Seating subject to availability.

For questions, group tickets, or further info, contact Jordan Mendelson at 312.994.5963 or jmendelson@chicagosky.net. Season runs May-September

DUPLICATIONS OF THIS COUPON ARE NOT ACCEPTED

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

SPECIAL OFFERS

\$40 SUMMER \$26 SUMMER KICK

AVAILABLE DATES:

13 7:30 PM	31 6 PM	03 7:30 PM	13 7:30 PM
WHEAT RIDGE	WHEAT RIDGE	WHEAT RIDGE	WHEAT RIDGE

TO ORDER: MATT JACOBSON 708-496-8884



Congratulations to all the 2016 IFI Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest participants!

As a special thank you IFI is making two Great Dad Coins available for the price of one.

For just \$10 (vs. \$20) you will receive two Great Dad Coins.

Orders received before June 15, 2016 guaranteed for delivery by Father's Day.

Mail this coupon to:
 TEAMDAD, 1515 S. Grove Avenue, #3667
 Barrington, IL 60010

Or go to www.teamdad.com





2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest



#1 - CHECKLIST

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THIS CHECKLIST STEP-BY-STEP FOR THE CONTEST TO RUN SMOOTHLY! THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

“What My Father Means To Me” is this year’s theme for the essays. We guarantee every essay submitted will be read at least once if not multiple times. All students submitting an essay through their school will receive a Certificate of Participation and a coupon sheet, which includes discounts on events and merchandise, and specially priced Chicago White Sox tickets.

One hundred fifty-six (156) essay semi-finalists (12 per grade), their fathers/father figures, etc, will be invited to attend the May Faces of Fatherhood Celebration™ as our guests. Twelve (12) of the essay finalists will be invited with their fathers to attend the **2017 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration** taking place in June 2017 at Union League Club of Chicago. 4 essayists and their dads will also be invited to a future White Sox game and to throw out a pre-game ceremonial 1st pitch.

- **THE TOP 25 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WILL EACH RECEIVE A STARTER KIT OF FATHERING RESOURCES.**
- **SCHOOLS WITH 100% PARTICIPATION WILL RECEIVE FURTHER RECOGNITION.**

INSTRUCTION CHECKLIST:

1. Select One Contact Person. This person will be responsible for collecting all of the essays from your school, filling out the Submission Form and shipping the essays **postmarked by March 15, 2017**. **Please have this contact person e-mail the following information – person’s name, their e-mail address, school name, address, phone and fax number to: 4fathers.sneed@gmail.com immediately so that we can establish communication throughout the Contest.**
2. Photocopy and distribute Teacher & Classroom Form (Item #4) and Official Essay Contest Entry Forms (Item #5) to all K-12 grade level teachers. **Please type the name of your school and school address on the form before making the copies.** This will save time for your students and ensure proper identification of your school.
3. Allow ample time after the essays are written, prior to the contest deadline (March 15, 2017) for the father/father figure to respond and return completed Entry Form to each teacher.
4. Ask each teacher to make complete copies of the Entry Forms with essays prior to submitting so copies can be shared with all dads. Due to heavy volume, IFI is not able to return essays once they are submitted.
5. We want all essays to be read by our volunteers. It is necessary to have all essays written in English. Please translate the essay if not written in English.
6. **Mail to: IFI/Chicago White Sox 2017 Fatherhood Essay Contest, 1 North Dearborn, #1000, Chicago, IL 60602. Postmark deadline for the contest is March 15, 2017.** Place the completed School Submission Form on the top of all the Entry Forms. We encourage you to send in the essays prior to the deadline.
7. The judging will be done from March 20 to April 15, 2017. The 156 essay finalists will be notified shortly thereafter. The Certificates of Participation and Coupon Sheets will be distributed by May 15, 2017. If your school contact does not receive your school’s awards by then, please let us know via email to 4fathers.sneed@gmail.com with the subject line “Missing Awards”. (NOTE: please do not phone in the missing awards).

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. ALL DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ESSAY CONTEST CAN BE FOUND ON THE IFI WEBSITE: <http://www.4fathers.org> or email questions to 4fathers.sneed@gmail.com.



2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest



#2 – FACT SHEET

Each student is asked to write a 250 word (or less) essay in English on the theme “What My Father Means To Me,” describing their relationship with their father or father figure. They should share their true feelings. Provide examples of joys, frustrations or special memories they have as well as commenting about what they would most like to see in their relationship. Father figures can include: uncles, brothers, coaches, or other persons of influence to the student. Please be sure the correct category is checked on the essay form.

CRITERIA FOR ESSAY JUDGING:

Please stress to all students that all submissions will be evaluated according to grade level. Judging criteria will consist of:

1. How the essay describes the relationship.
2. Specific detail and stories that demonstrate Father’s/Father-Figure’s character.
3. Honesty, clarity, simplicity of writing.
4. Overall grade level appropriate writing skill.
5. The response of the Father/Father figure or other involved adult.

JUDGING PROCESS

1. Essays will be divided into 13 categories (K-12) and four divisions (fathers, grandfather, stepfather, and father-figure). Local volunteers will utilize the above judging criteria and read every essay. At the Final essay reading, volunteers will then select 12 essays per grade, 3 in each category. Up to 156 essay finalists and their “dads” will be invited to attend the IFI Faces of Fatherhood Celebration™ in May 2017.
2. The “dads” of the essay finalists will receive questionnaires to complete and return.
3. Of those who fill out the questionnaire, the top 12 will be invited to the 2017 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration in June 2017.

RULES:

1. One entry per person. All essays must be original, written in English, and created by the student. Teachers may translate the essays into English. Entries may be typed.
2. All entries become the property of Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI).
3. Entry into the contest transfers copyright of the essay to IFI and grants IFI permission to reproduce without compensation all or any portion of the essay and response on an unlimited, world wide basis in its publications. When appropriate, IFI will cite the name of the author(s) if significant portions of a positive essay/response are used. IFI will also change or conceal names to maintain confidentiality where necessary.
4. Contest is open to Illinois residents, except employees of the Chicago White Sox, the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative, and it’s Board of Directors and it’s Board of Advisors, their respective affiliated companies or members of their respective families.
5. Taxes on any prizes awarded are the sole responsibility of winners. Prize winners, and their parents or guardians if the prize winner is a minor, must execute and return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within twenty (20) days or prize will be awarded to an alternate. Offer subject to federal, state, and local regulations and laws and void where taxed, restricted, or prohibited. By entering, participants agree to the use of name, photograph, or likeness for advertising and similar promotions of the Chicago White Sox and Illinois Fatherhood Initiative without compensation.



2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest



#3 – SCHOOL SUBMISSION FORM

CONTACT PERSON: For your school to be considered for the awards from the 2017 Essay Contest, you must fill out this form and mail it in with all of the essays from your school. In addition to the school awards, your name will be placed into a drawing for individual prizes. If this sheet is not turned in, you and your school will forfeit its chance for these awards.

School's Full Name: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ IL ZIP _____

School Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Contact's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Principal's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Total Number of Essays Submitted: _____ Official 2016-2017 School Total Enrollment: _____

Number of Teachers Participating: _____ Percentage of Enrollment Participating: _____ %

We are submitting the following number of essays per grade:

K: _____	4th Grade: _____	9th Grade: _____
1st Grade: _____	5th Grade: _____	10th Grade: _____
2nd Grade: _____	6th Grade: _____	11th Grade: _____
3rd Grade: _____	7th Grade: _____	12th Grade: _____
	8th Grade: _____	

The information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that for our school to be eligible for the essay contest awards, all of the essays from our school must be submitted together with this school submission sheet. I will serve as the contact for my school and be responsible for distribution of student awards and recognitions.

It is very important that the "Teacher" submission forms and the "School" submission form are completed and sent with all of the essays from you school in one envelope or package.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____

Deadline for the Essay packet must be postmarked by March 15, 2017.

Send Essay Mailing to:

IFI/Chicago White Sox 2017 Fatherhood Essay Contest

1 North Dearborn, #1000, Chicago, IL 60602

(800)996-DADS

Questions - email 4fathers.sneed@gmail.com



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#4 – TEACHER & CLASSROOM FORM

To have your class participate in the essay contest and ensure your students receive their participation awards, please fill out the form below and follow the easy to follow checklist below. Thanks for your help – *we could **not** do this without you!*

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Teacher Name: _____ Your E-Mail: _____
School: _____
School Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ School Phone: _____
Grade: _____ Number of participating student essays: _____ Total in Class: _____

CHECKLIST:

1. Photocopy the Essay Entry Form (#5), pages E-F, and give to students to use to write their essays. Please type in the school information on page F before photocopying. Students may use another piece of paper and type their essays only if they include the contact information that is listed at the top of the Essay Entry Form. To ensure that all essays are read, we need the essays to be submitted in English. Please translate the essay to English. Staple sheets together with the #5 Official Essay Contest Entry Form on top. Check to see if the student's name, school name, and grade is listed on the top of each page. It is very important to be able to identify each essay.
2. The essays must be postmarked by March 15, 2017. Feel free to send them in early.
3. After the essays are written make sure that every student has a photocopy of their essay to take to their father/father figure to compete. This step is important to fulfill a main goal of the essay contest, which is to make every effort to see these essays are shared with fathers and families
4. Set a deadline for your students to return their Father/Father Figure response to you that gives you plenty of time to comply with the March 15th deadline.
5. When all the essays are completed, place this sheet on the top of the essays from your class. Please do not put your essays in an envelope or folder.
6. Give the completed packet of essays to your school's Contact Person who will be responsible for mailing all of the essays from your school in one shipment. Do not mail your classroom's essays by themselves. Since we have 400+ schools participating, it is very important that we receive only one mailing from your school.
7. When the awards arrive, please distribute one set of awards to each student who participated from your classroom. IFI will mail the awards to the Contact Person from your school and they will be responsible for getting these awards to each teacher. **Please make and keep a list of participating students so every student who wrote an essay will get an award.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION – THERE IS MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU ON PAGE E.



2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest



#5 - Official Essay Contest Entry Form, Page E

- All students submitting an essay through their school will receive a Certificate of Participation and a coupon sheet for discounts on events and merchandise and specially priced Chicago White Sox tickets.
- 156 essay semi-finalists (12 per grade), their fathers/father figures, etc, will be invited to attend the May Faces of Fatherhood Celebration™ as our guests.
- Also, 12 essay finalists will receive additional prizes and be invited with their fathers to attend the 2017 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration in June 2017.
- The 4 essayists and their dads will be invited to a White Sox game to throw out the pre-game ceremonial 1st pitch.

Contest deadline is March 15, 2017.

There are 2 pages for this form: this page E and page F with the father response. Please Print Carefully.

*Student's Full Name _____ *Grade _____ *Teacher _____

*School Name _____

*School Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Student's Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Student Home Phone Number: (_____) _____ Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

*** Entries Required, Important Note:** Student does not need to provide home information if school policy does not allow for it. Information allows IFI to alert winners and their families in time to participate in celebrations. Please provide information if at all possible. **The essay needs to be submitted in English.** Teachers need to translate the essay if not written in English. Students may type their essays. **The typed pages need to be stapled to this sheet. Thank you.**

I AM WRITING AN ESSAY ABOUT MY (CIRCLE ONE):

FATHER GRANDFATHER STEPFATHER FATHER-FIGURE

Father/Father Figure's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Email Address _____

**Begin your essay on the next page
Form F and staple it to this form**



2017 IFI/Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest



#5 - Official Essay Contest Entry Form, **Page F**

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ School _____

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the essay response.

Father/Stepfather/Grandfather/Father-Figure Response: "My Reaction to this Essay", or "The Behavior I intend to Change is

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the response to the father/stepfather/grandfather/father-figure question.

I would like to become more involved with my child's education: ___ in the classroom ___ after school ___ at home ___ other
Congratulations, by providing a response and your email, you are a charter member in the new *IFI 21st Century Dads Club*.

My Name _____ Phone Number _____

Here is my e-mail address: _____

THANKS!! AND GOOD LUCK!!