



**Jerome Rohwer Committee Essay Contest
Two free registrations for the 2025 Pilgrimage
will be awarded**



The 2025 Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage Committee is pleased to announce an essay contest. A generous donation from one of our committee members allows us to offer free registration as awards. The theme of the essay is “Why do you want to attend the 2025 Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage?”

The 2025 Pilgrimage will be held May 21-24, in Little Rock, AR

Details

Theme

Why do you want to attend the 2025 Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage? Please include how you are related to Jerome Rohwer, and what is your motivation to attend.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all. Winners will be required to attend the Pilgrimage. Additionally, the winner must agree to attend the Award Ceremony at the Pilgrimage.

The Committee is encouraging students to submit essays. Students, who demonstrate that they are in high school or enrolled at least half-time at a college or university will receive 3 (three) bonus points (See “Evaluation Criteria” below). Students taking a legitimate break from college will also receive the bonus points. Documentation, such as a valid student ID card, proving student status must be supplied. If in grammar school, and no student ID card is available, stating age and grade will suffice. A parental consent form is required for all applicants under 18. All grammar school aged students are also encouraged to submit an essay. Grammar school aged students will receive 5 (five) bonus points.

Format

Essay Length: 500 words or less. Essays that are more than 500 words will be disqualified.

Page size: 8.5” x 11”

Margins: 1” margins on all sides

Font: Either 12 pt Times New Roman or 11 pt Arial will be accepted.

Evaluation Criteria

Essays will be judged by four independent judges. Essays will be evaluated by the following criteria. Criteria 1-3 will be given up to 10 points each. Criterion 4, Accuracy, will receive up to 5 points, for a total of 35 possible points. Qualified students will be awarded 3 (three) bonus points, and grammar school-aged students will receive 5 (five) bonus points (Total possible score, 38 and 41, respectively).

1. Creativity, ideas, concept. The nature of the theme means your essay will reflect your perspective. We will be looking at how the content of your essay is relevant to the theme, how developed your thoughts are, and how insightful your essay is. Express how you might benefit from attending the pilgrimage, for example. (10 pts)
2. Organization, Clarity, Coherence. Your essay should be well organized and flow logically. (10 points)
3. Relevance. While creativity is appreciated, the essay should be relevant to the theme. Write what you feel. (10 points.)
4. Accuracy. There will be two types of accuracy considered.
 - A. Accuracy of content. The information in the essay should be factual.
 - B. Accuracy of grammar and spelling. The essay should be well-written with correct spelling and grammar. We appreciate that creativity and sharing ideas are not dependent on accurate spelling and grammar, but for the sake of the contest, we will expect standard grammar to be used and no typographical errors or misspellings. (5 points)

Plagiarism is grounds for disqualification.

Awardee Requirements

Awardees are required to attend the Pilgrimage. Transportation and housing are not included in the award. Awardees must also attend the award ceremony at the Pilgrimage.

Essays become the property of the Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage Committee and photos taken of essay contestants are released to the Committee for use in publicity.

Awards

Two \$350 awards will be given. If a winner has paid for his or her registration, a refund of \$350 will be issued. If the winner has not registered, the winner will receive complimentary registration.

Review

Awards will be announced two weeks after close of contest.

Submission Date

Essays must be received by end of day, March 28,2025 (11:59 AM PDT).

How to Submit

Complete Application form, include year in school, if applicable. Students under age 18 must also submit the parent or guardian release form.

Submissions must be in a Word document compatible format or PDF document format.

Submit essay by email to Aeko Yoshikawa, aekey@icloud.com

JRC thanks the donor for the generous donation, that makes the essay contest possible.

