

# Onkyo Braille Essay Contest

Sponsored by Onkyo Corporation and the *Braille Mainichi*

*Administered by the  
National Federation of the Blind  
On behalf of the  
North America-Caribbean Region of the World Blind Union*

**Purpose:** To promote Braille literacy and to encourage the sharing of social and cultural information among blind/low-vision persons.

**Essay Submission Deadline:** All essays must be received by June 15, 2017.

Contest rules and other details can be found on the following page. Please read all of the information carefully.

## APPLICATION

Mail this application, along with your essay on paper in Braille, to your country's representative from the contact list on the following page. Additionally, email your essay and a photograph of yourself to the country contact.

Additional copies of this application may be obtained by downloading them from <https://nfb.org/onkyo-braille-essay-contest> or by contacting your country's representative.

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female

Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay \_\_\_\_\_

Category (check one): \_\_\_ Junior (aged 25 and under); \_\_\_ Senior (aged 26 and up)

Number of Braille Pages in Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

***All entries must be received by June 15, 2017.***

## **RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ONKYO BRAILLE ESSAY CONTEST**

All entries must be received by June 15, 2017. Questions concerning the contest should be directed to the country contacts listed below.

- 1) We propose a variety of possible topics for essays so that participants can address the importance of braille from several angles. The list below is not exclusive; participants may choose other themes relating to the use of braille. Authors are invited to give all themes their own imaginative interpretation and to be creative, using formats different from telling one's life story, such as a letter, a poem, or an interview.
  - a) "The role of braille in furthering participation in political, economic, cultural, social and family life." Braille in a technology-driven world and using braille at all ages are some examples of how this theme may be addressed.
  - b) "Amusing stories about Braille."
  - c) "The future of Braille."
  - d) "What advantages and disadvantages does Braille have over print?"
- 2) Essays must be written by the blind participants, in English or their native language, in Braille, and must be completely original in nature. (Note: although the submission is also to be sent by email, the essay must first be written using Braille and must not be created using print-to-Braille translation software.)
- 3) The writer's name, age, and title should be written in Braille at the top of the first page.
- 4) Essays should be no fewer than 800 words and no more than 1,000 words in length.
- 5) There will be two groups of competitors—one junior group, aged 25 and under, and one senior group, aged 26 and up.
- 6) Essays will be judged on the following criteria: pertinence to the topics listed above, impact and credibility of the experiences described, accuracy and neatness in using Braille, and style and language skills.
- 7) Prizes:
  - a) Ootsuki Award (for junior or senior group participants): US\$2,000 and a commemorative souvenir with a value of US\$100. One award given.
  - b) Excellent Work Award: US\$1,000 and a commemorative souvenir with a value of US\$100. Two awards given, one in the Junior category and one in the Senior category.
  - c) Fine Work Award: US\$500 each and a commemorative souvenir with a value of US\$50. Four awards given, two in the Senior category and two in the Junior category.
- 8) The organizers in Japan will send the prizes to the contacts for the winner's country of residence, who will then pass them on to the individual winners. The winning essays will be included in a commemorative contest booklet. The winning essays, along with photographs of the winners, will be included in a commemorative contest booklet.

### **CONTACTS FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:**

#### **Canada**

Braille Literacy Canada (BLC)  
20 Northpark Drive  
Gloucester, ON K1B 3Y6  
Jen Goulden, info@blc-lbc.ca

#### **United States**

National Federation of the Blind  
Jennifer Dunnam, [jdunnam@nfb.org](mailto:jdunnam@nfb.org)  
200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
(612) 767-5658