

Hello All of You Wonderful American Iris Society Youth! As a member of The American Iris Society all the youth iris lovers in the world are very important to us. AIS and the AIS Foundation sponsor an exciting activity for you that has awards and free new iris hybrids. It is the *Youth Ackerman Essay* contest. This year you will have the opportunity to hone up on your writing skills and write a persuasive imaginative essay. I am announcing the 2020 theme and deadline for the Ackerman Essay Contest. The theme is:

It is the 100th Anniversary of the American Iris Society this year! Imagine that you are the President of the American Iris Society 50 years from now, on the 150th Anniversary of AIS. How would you encourage people to join AIS and continue to support growing and sharing irises into the future? What do you think irises will look like in 2070?

You are going to have to dig really deep into your imagination to write this one. Think hard and out of the box. Tell us things that come into your mind when you think about your iris what the future might be like. As you write, explain with examples and paint a picture with your words as you tell us what you would share about growing iris, how they might be grown and what changes might have occurred over the years with the plant, the colors, the size, the bloom times, etc. Be careful not to just list things, remember this is an essay, so write details with creativity.

There are three age groups, therefore awarding three 1st, three 2nd, and three 3rd place prizes: one in each age group! The age groups are **9 and Under, 10-12, and 13 and Over**. All three age groups will receive: \$100 for First Place, \$50 for Second Place and \$25 for Third Place, courtesy of The American Iris Society Foundation. They will also receive a 2020 iris from one of our wonderful hybridizers. And of course, there are some other rules:

Essays should be written in **500 words or less**. The **extended** deadline for getting the essay finished and sent to me is **May 31, 2020**. Mail your essay to:

Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland TX 79707
Email: debbie@loveiries.com
432-352-5483

Or send as an attachment to me at debbie@loveirises.com. If you have any questions email or call me.

Everyone that enters will receive a lovely participation certificate.

Please get to work finishing or starting a new essay. When you have a quiet or free time, make a list of what the future of the iris looks like and how you can help them be important in our gardens. Then when you have more time, add more ideas or refine the ones you already have and decide what you want to write about. This will get you started, and you won't be so overwhelmed with writing the essay.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me or call me.

Sincerely,
Debbie

Debbie Strauss
AIS Ackerman Essay Contest Chair
MIS Board Director & Fundraising Chair
AIS Region 17 Treasurer
Permian Basin Iris Society Treasurer
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