Attention all students registered or interested in registering for the Class of 2015’s 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.:

We are excited and pleased to inform you that Friends of Palms has very generously provided $3,500 to be awarded in the following manner:

- **One first place winner = $1,400.00**
- **Two second place winners = $700.00 each**
- **Two third place winners = $350.00 each**

Interested students must submit two letters of recommendation and write an essay, responding to the following prompt in your essay:

> Tell us about yourself, why you want to go to Washington D.C., and why you need financial assistance.

Your essay should include:

- Who are you
- What inspires you
- Whether you have traveled before and if so, where
- How you will raise the balance of the funds necessary for the trip

Provide several reasons which may include what monuments, museums, or other historical venues you want to see, like Arlington Cemetery, the Archives, or Gettysburg. Explain what you think you will gain from seeing them. All applicants, in their essay, must demonstrate a clear need for financial assistance. One paragraph in this essay should also describe the kind of behavior trip leaders and fellow students can expect from you.

Contest Rules:

- Register for the *Friends of Palms Washington D.C. Scholarship Contest* in Mr. Nicholson’s room #210.
- Essays must be typed (double spaced).
- Essays must be turned into Mr. Nicholson by Friday November 7, 2014.
- Essays will be read, evaluated and winners chosen by Palms Middle School staff and Friends of Palms members. Refer to the rubric on the next page.
- Due to the personal content in the essays, they will not be shared or displayed (this includes winners).

Thank you,

Mr. Nicholson
# Scholarship Contest Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>POOR</th>
<th>FAIR</th>
<th>AVERAGE</th>
<th>ABOVE AVERAGE</th>
<th>EXCELLENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY Palms Middle School Involvement</td>
<td>1 example of school/community involvement outside of the classroom</td>
<td>1 or more examples of school/community involvement outside of the classroom, with no unique or leadership roles.</td>
<td>2 or more examples of recent community/school involvement. With unique or leadership roles.</td>
<td>3 or more examples of recent community/school involvement. With unique or above average leadership roles.</td>
<td>3 or more examples of recent community/school involvement, with unique and above average leadership roles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL Need</td>
<td>No evidence of need</td>
<td>Limited evidence of need</td>
<td>Partial evidence of need</td>
<td>Evidence of some need but no clear understanding that will not be able to go without assistance</td>
<td>Clear evidence of need and clear understanding that assistance is necessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>