



News

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1st Generation Essay Contest Planned at SWOSU

An essay contest is part of a 1st Generation celebration that will be taking place at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in November.

SWOSU Academic Support Center Coach Dillon Martone said essay submissions will be accepted through October 25 with first place winning a \$500 scholarship, second place a \$100 gift card to The Merc and third place a SWOSU gift basket.

1st Generation is an event celebrating students and faculty whose parents never completed a four-year degree. The actual event will take place on November 8 from 3-5 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center.

The essay prompt is "Why Did You Choose to Be 1st (Generation)." Essays should be between 400 and 700 words. To participate, students must be part of the 39% of SWOSU students that are 1st Generation, meaning their parents never completed a 4-year degree. The essays will be evaluated anonymously by a panel of interdisciplinary judges. The finalists and their placements will be announced at the end of the event on the November 8.

SWOSU students can submit their essays either by navigating to the Academic Support Center page of the SWOSU website and clicking the Essay Contest tab (<https://bulldog.swosu.edu/student-services/academic-support-center/essay-contest.php>), and following this link to the Form Stack submission page (https://swosu.formstack.com/forms/1st_generation_celebration_essay_contest) or by scanning the QR code below that leads to the Form Stack submission page. Additional rules and criteria for the contest be found at the links above.

As for 1st Generation faculty that would like to participate, they can follow the same guidelines as listed for students in their writing but instead of submitting to the Form Stack they should email Martone directly at dillon.martone@swosu.edu to express interest in reading as a guest speaker at the event.

