



January 7, 2019

Dear Mayor,

The New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) is inviting all eighth grade students currently enrolled in a school located in a city or village in New York State to participate in a statewide essay contest addressing the topic, "If I Were Mayor, I Would" This essay contest received tremendous feedback in the last two years with close to 100 participating schools and more than 2,000 essays submitted. This year we are continuing this successful program and look forward to hearing from eight graders in your community.

The contest deadline is March 6, 2019. Contest details are listed on the entry form/brochure and on our website at www.nycom.org. We have encouraged teachers and students to contact their mayor to discuss their form of government. In order to assist your dialogue, please download this [POWERPOINT](#) presentation. If your municipality plans on holding their own "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." contest, please contact [Jennifer Purcell](#) of the NYCOM staff to make sure all of the essays you receive are entered into the NYCOM contest.

Three winning essays will be selected. The first place winner will receive \$150, second place \$75 and third place \$50. The first place winner along with his/her parents, teacher

and mayor will be invited to and recognized at our Annual Meeting banquet Sunday, May 5th at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown. The first place winner will also be provided with an overnight stay in Cooperstown for Sunday, May 5th. Lastly, the three winners will be highlighted on the NYCOM website and in our Municipal Matters magazine. All students whose essays make it to the final round will receive an “Honorable Mention” certificate.

NYCOM recommends that the three award winners be recognized by their city or village as “Mayor for a Day” to recognize their efforts and civic mindedness.

We would appreciate your help in promoting the essay contest in the following ways:

- [POSTER](#) - Reproduce and display this poster in your community (legal size).
- [ENTRY FORM/BROCHURE](#) - Reproduce and share this brochure with your community.
- [SOCIAL MEDIA](#) and/or [WEBSITE](#) - Promote the contest link on city/village sites.

If you would like hard copies of these materials, please contact the NYCOM office and we will be happy to mail them to you.

For questions regarding this contest, please contact Jennifer Purcell at (518) 463-1185 or via [email](#). You may also visit the [NYCOM](#) website for more information about the contest.

Thank you for your assistance,
Peter A. Baynes
NYCOM Executive Director

