

Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission



2027 MLK Student Contests and Award Nominations



The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission invites students, families, schools, and community members to participate in the 2027 MLK contest and award opportunities. This year's theme is: "Let us build the future through stones of hope."

Students are encouraged to reflect on Dr. King's legacy of service, justice, equality, nonviolence, human rights, and beloved community through writing, public speaking, and visual art. CASH PRIZES are awarded for the top three contest winners in each category!

Essay Contest

Open to Howard County middle and high school students. Students are invited to submit an original essay reflecting on the 2027 MLK Celebration theme.

Oratory Contest

Open to Howard County middle and high school students. Students are invited to submit and perform an original 2–3 minute speech connected to the 2027 MLK Celebration theme. First-place winners will be invited to perform at the MLK Celebration.

Poster Contest

Open to Howard County elementary, middle, and high school students. Students are invited to submit original artwork that visually expresses Dr. King's legacy and the 2027 MLK Celebration theme.

"Living the Dream" Award

Open for community nominations. Nominate an individual or organization that promotes Dr. King's legacy through community involvement, service, leadership, and commitment to justice.

Deadline:

Entries must be submitted via email by
5:00pm EST, Oct. 30, 2026 to
MLK@howardcountymd.gov.

<https://bit.ly/MLKCONTEST27>
(case-sensitive)

Start Here!



For More Information

Call (410) 313-6430 or Email MLK@howardcountymd.gov

