



December 18, 2017

Dear Fifth Grade Science Student, Parent, or Educator:

The Eastern North Carolina Section of the Society of Women Engineers is pleased to announce the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual ***Great Women in Science and Engineering*** essay contest for fifth grade students. The goal of this contest is three-fold: to highlight the contributions and achievements of women engineers and scientists, to encourage students to learn more about these women while polishing their researching and writing skills, and to improve the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in our quality of life.

Essays must be submitted by **February 27, 2018**. Prizes will be awarded for the best individual essays and the schools with the highest participation, and each participant will receive a certificate. Details are provided in the Contest Rules below.

### **Contest Rules**

1. Essays may be submitted by any fifth-grade student attending school (public/charter, private, or home-school) within the charter region of the Eastern NC Section of the Society of Engineers.

The list below shows the first 3 digits of the zip codes that are included in our region. The associated cities are provided as an indication of the general location of that range of zip codes and are not intended to be inclusive of the area covered by the codes.

270-274	Greensboro/High Point/Winston-Salem and surrounding area
275-277	Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill, Goldsboro, and surrounding areas
278	Rocky Mount/Greenville area
279	Northeast NC coastal area
283	Fayetteville area
284	Wilmington and southeast NC coastal area
285	Central NC coastal area

**Note:** If we receive essays from students attending schools outside of this range, we will be able to provide participation certificates, but those students will be ineligible to receive official prizes. We also encourage fifth grade classrooms outside our zip code range to use these guidelines to hold their own essay contests or as an addition to their curriculum.

Questions? Contact the Essay Contest Coordinator at [swe.essay.contest@gmail.com](mailto:swe.essay.contest@gmail.com)

2. Write an original essay of about 500 words on one of the following women engineers or scientists:

Anita Borg	Computer Scientist
Elizabeth Blackwell	First female doctor
Edith Clarke	Electrical Engineer
France Anne Cordova	Astrophysicist
Jennifer Doudna	Biochemist & Geneticist
Gertrude Belle Elion	Biochemist
Mae Jemison	Astronaut & Physician
Margaret E. Knight	Inventor
Stephanie Kwolek	Chemist & Inventor of Kevlar
Marissa Mayer	Computer Scientist & CEO
Ida Tacke Noddack	Chemist & Physicist
Ellen Ochoa	NASA Astronaut
Ida Stephens Owens	Physiologist & Biochemist
Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin	Astronomer
Emily Warren Roebling	Civil Engineer
Ellen Swallow Richards	Environmental Engineer
Ruchi Sanghvi	Computer Engineer
Maria Telkes	Biophysicist – solar energy
Lydia Villa-Komaroff	Molecular Biologist
Padmasree Warrior	Chemical Engineer & CEO
Chien-Shiung Wu	Nuclear Physicist & Biophysicist
Rosalyn Yalow	Nuclear Physicist

Each essay should:

- Describe the woman's life, achievements, and any awards that she received in recognition of her work.
- Comment on the significance and impact of her contributions.
- Include a bibliography of the references used.
- Provide the student's name and school on the first page.

Essays will be judged on the following criteria:

- Accurate description of life and achievements (demonstrating understanding of and ability to summarize reference materials)
- Significance/impact of contributions (demonstrating ability to form and describe personal opinions)
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation
- Style of writing
- Bibliography (minimum of three sources)
- Neatness

3. Essays may be submitted individually by the student or in a batch email by the teacher.

Each email should include the information listed below, either within the body of the email or attached as a separate cover sheet. A single cover sheet per teacher is acceptable, provided the cover sheet clearly lists the names of all participants (typed or carefully printed).

The following information must be clearly printed on the cover sheet:

- Teacher's name
- School's name and address (if the mailing address is different than the physical address, please provide both)
- Number of fifth grade students enrolled in your school (for evaluation of the Participation award) \*\*
- Full name of each essay author (please check spelling, as the cover sheet will be used to generate the participation certificates)

\*\* This number must be included for your school to be eligible for the Participation award, which is based on the percentage of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from your school that submitted an essay. Please provide the number of students enrolled in fifth grade at your school.

4. All entries must be submitted to [swe.essay.contest@gmail.com](mailto:swe.essay.contest@gmail.com) by **February 27, 2018**. Essays should have one of the following extensions: .pdf, .doc, or .txt.

**Note:** If your essay is handwritten and you do not have access to a scanner, please contact us at [swe.essay.contest@gmail.com](mailto:swe.essay.contest@gmail.com) for an alternative submittal option.

5. Contest winners will be announced and prizes will be distributed in late April/early May 2018.

Prizes include:

- First, Second, and Third Places – Science Kit and Certificate
- Honorable Mentions – Honorable Mention Certificate
- All participants – Participation Certificate
- Ten schools with the highest participation based on 5<sup>th</sup> grade population – Book for the school library

**Note:** Authors of late/otherwise ineligible entries will receive participation certificates only.

Please contact us at [swe.contest.essay@gmail.com](mailto:swe.contest.essay@gmail.com) with any questions about eligibility or other rules, or to inquire about any participation certificates/prizes that are not received by mid-May 2018. We look forward to reading your essays!

Sincerely,

Kristin Sroka  
Eastern NC SWE 2018 Essay Contest Coordinator