



## Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP) Essay Contest: “Who is your MCAP (Hero)?”



***Everyone needs a Hero. There are heroes among us. Do you know one? Heroes aren't always the ones wearing uniforms. They can be everyday people, just like you, who make the world a better place by giving back, helping someone in need or standing up for what is right. Our heroes are our MCAP advocates. What makes someone your hero? Who has helped you be a better person or helped you deal with a tough situation? Who inspires you by their example?***

Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP) was founded in 2004 and provides free legal representation to children who are victims of abuse and neglect in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Children are harmed every day, often by someone close to them. MCAP attorney advocates represent and protect the needs and interests of these vulnerable children, offering representation and support as they participate in the legal and social service arenas. As a unique victim's agency, MCAP provides child victims with a voice, helping them heal and learn to trust others. Since 2004, we have helped over 4,276 kids by giving them a special person, an advocate, who voiced their concerns, helped them overcome the trauma and reclaim their childhoods. So, who is that special person who helped you be a better person, helped you deal with a tough situation or inspires you?



## Official Rules

1. All entries must be an original, non-fiction piece written solely by the author.
2. Contestants must be high school students and residents of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, proof of which will be required to claim any prize.
3. Deadline for submission is October 20, 2016. Winners will be notified by November 15, 2016. All winners must be available on November 19, 2016 for a possible Awards Ceremony.
4. Entries should be between 500 words and 750 words. Minimum word count 500/maximum 750.
5. All entries must be typed, 12-point font and double-spaced. Entries must be emailed to [info@mcapkids.org](mailto:info@mcapkids.org) as either a Word or PDF file and include the entry form (next page). Receipt of entries will be confirmed upon submission.
6. Contestants must complete the following entry form to qualify for the prizes.
7. No entry will be returned.
8. By submitting your entry, you are agreeing to all contest rules.
9. Judging Criteria:
  - material organization-logical interpretation of the subject and adherence to the topic: 40 points
  - vocabulary and style – phrasing and continuity – 30 points
  - creativity-original ideas presented in unique manner – 20 points
  - neatness- 5 points
  - adherence to contest rules- prepared in proper format – 5 points
10. All entries become the property of Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP) and maybe used in print, digital and web-based promotional materials. Certain identifying details may be edited or removed.
11. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three essays in the following amounts:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place \$500
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$250
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$150
12. The judging process based on the criteria will be made by the MCAP “Who is your MCAP (HERO)” subcommittee; all decisions made by the judges regarding the winners are final.
13. We require that the winners’ to sign releases for their names and/photos for possible MCAP use in print, digital or web-based promotional materials.



**Official 2016 Montgomery Child Advocacy Project's Writing Contest Entry Form**  
**Who is your MCAP-Hero?**

*Please include this form with your submission. Without this information, we will not be able to contact you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be available for a possible Awards Ceremony on November 19, 2016?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                      \_\_\_\_\_no

To learn more about MCAP, visit our website at [www.mcapkids.org](http://www.mcapkids.org)

Thank you. Good luck!