Society of Women Engineers
Rocky Mountain

Great Women in Engineering and Science

2019 Essay Contest for 6th Grade Girls and Boys

Contest Details

To enter:

Write an original essay of approximately 500 words on one of the women scientists listed below.

Choose one of the following women engineers/scientists:

- **Grace Hopper** – 20th Century American Mathematician and Computer Scientist
- **Mary Leakey** – 20th Century British Archaeologist
- **Barbara McClintock** – 20th Century American Geneticist
- **Christine Darden** – 20th Century American Mathematician and Aeronautical Engineer
- **Hertha Ayrton –** 19th Century British Engineer, Physicist, and Inventor

Winning essays should:

- Describe in detail the woman's life, achievements, and any awards she received in recognition of her work.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of her work.
- Show originality.
- Include three or more research sources from varying media (bibliography).
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Present the information in an organized, neat fashion, and with good sentence structure.

Essays must include a cover page with:

- Your full name
- Your school's name and address
- Your teacher's name and email address
- The number of 6th graders in your class

All entries must be received by February 25, 2019

Preferred Submission:

Emailed to: EssayContestSWERMS@gmail.com
PDF files (preferred), Word documents, and Google Docs accepted

Alternate Submission:

Mailed to: Society of Women Engineers
c/o Sara Ellis, Timberline Instruments
1880 South Flatiron Ct, Suite G
Boulder CO, 80301

For additional information:
visit http://www.swe-rms.org/essay-contest.html
or contact the contest co-chairs at EssayContestSWERMS@gmail.com

You Can Win These Prizes!

- **First Place:** Science Kit, Science Book, and $75 cash prize
- **Second Place:** Science Kit, Science Book, and $50 cash prize
- **Third Place:** Science Kit, Science Book, and $25 cash prize
- **Honorable Merit:** Science Kit
- **Honorable Mention:** Science Book

School Awards:

All schools with 20% or more of their 6th graders submitting essays will receive a book award for their library.

Attention Teachers

If your school won a participation award in previous years, be sure to check your school library for potential references for this year's contest!

Society of Women Engineers

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a non-profit educational and service organization. SWE is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. It consists of women and men who are graduate engineers as well as those with equivalent engineering experience and/or those interested in supporting SWE's mission. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and be recognized for their life changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

SWE originated when small groups of women engineers and women engineering students began meeting independently in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Nearly 50 women from these groups came together on May 27, 1950, in New Jersey at Green Engineering Camp of the Cooper Union and formed the Society of Women Engineers.

For more information about the Society please visit www.swe.org.

SWE's Mission

- Stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders.
- Expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life.
- Demonstrate the value of diversity.

SWE's Objectives

- Encourage women engineers to attain high levels of education and professional achievement.
- Inform young women, their parents, counselors, and the general public of the qualifications and achievements of women engineers and the opportunities open to them.
- Assist women engineers in readying themselves for a return to active work after temporary retirement.
- Serve as a center of information on women in engineering.

SWE Rocky Mountain Section

The Denver Section of the Society of Women Engineers was chartered in 1954 and renamed the Rocky Mountain Section (RMS) in 1986.

The section has been active since its founding, hosting two SWE national conferences, several regional meetings, and establishing the Certificates of Merit Program in Colorado and Wyoming. The section has been recognized nationally by the Society with awards in the areas of Career Guidance, Newsletter, and Professional Development. Section members have served or are serving as national officers, directors, and committee chairs.

In 1994, the Pikes Peak Section was chartered to serve the growing number of engineering professionals in the Colorado Springs and other communities in Southern Colorado. The Pikes Peak and Rocky Mountain Sections work cooperatively to provide a variety of both continuing development and career guidance activities to members throughout the states of Colorado and Wyoming.

For more information about the Rocky Mountain Section please visit www.swe-rms.org.

Outreach and Career Guidance

SWE-RMS provides outreach and career guidance activities at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels. In addition to the Essay Contest, SWE-RMS hosts the Girls Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (GESTEM) event and partners with local STEM organizations including Girl Scouts of America, FIRST Robotics, and Colorado MESA. SWE-RMS awards Certificates of Merit for excellence in science and mathematics at the high school level in addition to scholarships to incoming college freshman and upperclassmen majoring in engineering. An annual Awards Banquet recognizes the scholarship, essay contest, and section awards winners each spring. The Rocky Mountain Section supports local student SWE Sections at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Colorado at Denver, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State College, and the University of Wyoming.

Professional Development

SWE-RMS provides professional development through Collective Wisdom Groups, a Fall Mini Conference, webinars, new member events, and networking nights. Topics include leadership, communication, management skills, and family issues. The development of the individual is enhanced by technical tours of local engineering and manufacturing companies and research facilities.