

2026 MLK

HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEST FOR YOUTH

"We must use time creatively in the knowledge that the time is always right to do right."

—Dr Martin Luther King, Jr



Sponsored by the Golden Valley Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Commission

Open to students in grades Pre-K–12 who live in Golden Valley; attend a school, religious institution, or recreation program in Golden Valley; or attend a Robbinsdale Area District or Hopkins District school.

VALUES

Grade Range: Pre-K–Kindergarten, Grades 1–3, Grades 4–7, and 8–12

The MLK Human Rights Contest provides a path for children and youth to follow as they grow. This year, instead of selecting a quote, students are asked to submit a creative entry that represents one of Dr King's core values and how it relates to their lives and/or current social issues.

- **Courage:** being brave enough to do what's right, even when it's difficult or scary
- **Truth:** choosing honesty and living with integrity by acting and speaking in ways that reflect what is real
- **Justice:** making sure everyone is treated fairly and has the same opportunities
- **Compassion:** deeply caring about other people
- **Dignity:** respecting yourself and others because every person has value
- **Humility:** being thankful, not boastful, and willing to listen, learn, and give credit to others.
- **Service:** helping others without expecting anything in return

ENTRIES

Enter any creative submission, including, but not limited to, artwork, poetry, videos, songs, raps, or essays. Audio or video entries can be submitted through YouTube or other multimedia platforms.

Entries must include:

- student's name, address, phone/email, and grade level
- parent/caregiver name, phone/email
- school's name and staff contact information

Email entries to skaempfer@goldenvalleymn.gov. Mail or drop off entries care of Seth Kaempfer, 7800 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

DEADLINE

Monday, Dec 15, 2025

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Monday, Dec 29, 2025

JUDGING

Submissions will be judged on inspiration, clarity, creativity, and content applicable to the theme.

PRIZES

A \$100 cash prize will be given to one youth in each grade range.

Winning entries will be featured live on stage during Sweet Potato Comfort Pie's annual MLK Holiday of Service Program at the Golden Valley Country Club January 18, 2026 from 2 to 4:30 pm.

For more information, please visit the Golden Valley's DEI Commission website.
www.goldenvalleymn.gov/DEIC

