



Dear Superintendent:

In 2004 Congress passed Public Law 108-447, Section 111 which mandates that every school which receives Federal funds shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution. You may read the full text and the background of this law at our website:

www.ypcusa.net

The *Young Patriot Challenge* (YPC) Program is a countywide academic competition that was created to help the schools of Merced County meet the requirements of this federal mandate and to make learning about the U.S. Constitution fun, memorable and challenging.

It is our hope that teachers in your schools will allow their students time to engage in their activity (Poster creation, Essay writing or Speech preparation) as part of their classroom activities during Constitution week. Our website also has free teaching resources for the different grade levels that can be downloaded.

Put all collected poster entries and essays with waiver form attached into a manila envelope. Entries should be sent to YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE for Inter-District Mail. The front of the envelope should include school and teacher name and be addressed to the Young Patriot Challenge, MCOE Complex Bldg J-1 and **arrive no later than September 28, 2018**

Students that win the countywide competition will receive awards including a medal with ribbon, a certificate and a gift card and will be honored along with their parents at a special Award Ceremony to be held on October 24, 2018.

This program has been made possible by donations of time, and money and labor from many different businesses, organizations and individuals in the Merced/Atwater area. It is truly a community event. This will be our seventh year conducting this contest.

If you have any questions about the project or would like to schedule a visit from a committee member, you may contact us by calling: YPC Committee Chairperson Barbara Riis-Christensen at 358-8404.

Steve Tietjen, Ed.D.
Merced County Superintendent of Schools