

A Day in the Mayor's Shoes

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

Presented by the Marion Chamber of Commerce

Today's Readers. Tomorrow's Leaders.

Read. Imagine. Lead.

Program Overview

A Day in the Mayor's Shoes is an annual literacy and leadership initiative encouraging third-grade students to strengthen writing skills while learning about leadership, local government, and civic responsibility.

Purpose

To inspire students to become stronger readers, confident writers, engaged citizens, and future leaders by connecting literacy with community service.

Eligibility

Open to all third-grade students enrolled in participating Marion School District elementary schools during the 2026–2027 school year.

Official Contest Timeline

Date	Milestone	Responsibility
August 17, 2026	Contest Launch	Chamber launches contest; schools announce to third-grade students.
September 14, 2026	Essay Submission Deadline	Students submit essays to their school.
September 15–21, 2026	School-Level Judging	Each school selects ONE Junior Mayor Finalist.
September 25, 2026	Junior Mayor Finalist Submitted	Each school submits its winning essay to the Chamber.
October 1, 2026	Mayor for a Day Named	Winner, family, and school are notified before the public announcement.
October 12–16, 2026	Mayor for a Day Experience	Winner serves during Chamber of Commerce Week.

Contest Rules

Essays must be the student's original work and follow all submission requirements.

Essay Requirements

250–500 words responding to: 'If you were Mayor of Marion for one day, how would you make our community even better?'

School-Level Judging

Each participating elementary school will select one Junior Mayor Finalist.

Chamber Judging

A chamber judging panel will review the Junior Mayor Finalist essays and select one Marion Mayor for a Day.

Judging Rubric

Creativity (20), Organization (20), Grammar (20), Leadership (20), Response to Prompt (20).

Awards & Recognition

Each school's Junior Mayor Finalist receives recognition. One student is named Marion's Mayor for a Day.

Mayor for a Day Experience

The winning student participates in the official Mayor for a Day experience during Chamber of Commerce Week.

Media & Photography

Recognition and photography subject to district permissions.

Code of Conduct

The Chamber reserves the right to interpret these rules. Judging decisions are final.

Contest Administration

Administered by the Marion Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Marion School District.