

Nebraska State Treasurer Shane Osborn, along with the Omaha Royals Baseball Club, announce the kick-off of the 7th Annual, "Why I Want to Go to College" essay contest.

The essay contest is open to all 7th and 8th grade students residing in and outside of Nebraska.

"We are so excited to team up with the Omaha Royals again for an event that is not only fun and interactive, but also provides a valuable learning experience for these students," Osborn said.

"We want every child to realize their dream of attending college and hope this essay contest will help them achieve their future goals," he said.

Essays must be post-marked by Friday, April 17. The essay should be no more than 750 words and should articulate the student's goals and dreams for the future.

Each essay, along with the required cover sheet, should be mailed to:

The Omaha Royals
Attn: Lesley Crutcher
1202 Bert Murphy Ave.
Omaha, NE 68107

A first, second and third place winner will be selected from each of Nebraska's three congressional districts. Each district winner will receive the following:

1st Place: \$1,000 towards one of Nebraska's College Savings Plans

2nd Place: \$500 towards one of Nebraska's College Savings Plans

3rd Place: \$300 towards one of Nebraska's College Savings Plans

In addition, each winner will receive four tickets to the Nebraska vs. Creighton baseball game on Tuesday, May 12 at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium and four Henry Doorly Zoo passes. First place winners will also be treated to a one night stay at a premier Omaha hotel.

Out-of-state participants (non-Nebraska residents) will receive monetary prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$300 towards one of Nebraska's College Savings Plans for first, second and third place, respectively.

Prizes are courtesy of the Omaha Royals and the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office.

For more information on contest requirements, contact Rachel Rezabek at 402-471-1088 or visit www.treasurer.org.