

My Land, Your Land

2009 PUBLIC LANDS WRITING CONTEST
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

The EcoSeekers™ connects kids and young adults with nature and environmentalism through the power of story.

Now we're asking to hear *your* stories!

How has a local, state or national park, wilderness preserve, or seashore influenced your life? How have you contributed to your public land? Do you live on or near public lands, or have you visited public lands? We want to hear about your experiences and thoughts! Stories can be written in any form (conventional, journal-style, poem, etc) about your thoughts and experiences or about the experience of someone you know well.

Contest Details

AWARDS

\$100 – first place prize per category

\$50 – second place prize per category

Eight additional stories will receive honorable mention.

(Plus, all winning entrants will receive a special certificate and free membership to a public land association; winning entrants will also be posted on The EcoSeekers™ website. Possible publication for all entrants.)

CATEGORIES

Grades 2 – 4

Grades 5 – 8

Grades 9 – 12

* If conventional United States grade levels are not applicable to your situation, simply indicate your age on the entry form and we will select the appropriate category for you.

DEADLINES

All entries must be postmarked by December 31, 2009; early entries must be postmarked by September 30, 2009.

SUBMISSION FEES

Individual: \$10 – regular deadline / \$5 – early deadline

Classroom: \$30 – regular deadline / \$20 – early deadline

(if the submission fee prevents you from participation due to financial hardship, please contact us for possible waiver.)

CONTEST DETAILS CONTINUED ON BACK



ELIGIBILITY

Entry must be:

- An original piece of writing;
- Written in English;
- Written by an individual between the ages of 5 and 17, and submitted with the permission of a parent, guardian, or educator;
- Connected to the writer's experience or reflection about a public land, or the experience of someone the writer knows well. 'Public lands' are defined as parks, wildlife preserves or monuments, seashores and all such similar places. For the purposes of this contest, war memorials, cemeteries, and such similar public lands are excluded.

Entry may be:

- Written about any public land in the world;
- Written by an individual from any country or territory;
- Written in any style or genre (i.e. first person, third person, journal-style, poem, letter, etc.);
- Any length up to 3,000 words (remember: longer does not mean better!);
- Previously unpublished or published material. If previously published, entrant must disclose in Entry Form that the entry was previously published, and agree to special terms.

Please note: writers may enter multiple times, but each submission requires an entry fee.

Winning entries may include some of the following:

- An adventure you or someone you know had on a public land
- Creative writing and descriptive imagery
- How a public land has affected you or made you think about life in a new way
- How you have contributed to or helped to protect a public land (protection may be in general and/or include protection of specific animals, plants or other natural features)
- Facts and/or history about your public land
- Description of nature and wildlife
- Reasons why you want to visit (again) a particular public land
- Reflections, thoughts, feelings or dreams you had while or after visiting a public land

EDUCATORS

Your classroom will receive a certificate for a winning entry and a box of free books from The EcoSeekers Collection™ for a 1st prize entry (in addition to student award).

- Educators may submit up to 35 entries per classroom using the Group Entry Form.
- A writers' workshop unit has been designed for your convenience and use along with this contest. Lessons and suggestions for each phase of the writing process can be found at www.theecoseekers.com/educators

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Mail three (3) copies of your story on 100% post-consumer recycled paper along with a check payable to "The EcoSeekers" to:

The EcoSeekers
"Writing Contest"
P.O. Box 637
Nyack, NY 10960

- Enclose a completed Entry Form for each entry (download the form from our website).
- Alternatively, email one (1) copy of your story and Entry Form to contest@theecoseekers.com; submit credit card payment via www.theecoseekers.com

Entries will be judged by a professional panel, including writers and educators. Only entries that adhere to the stated subject matter and guidelines will be considered.

Entry Forms can be downloaded at www.theecoseekers.com.

For questions, please email us at contest@theecoseekers.com. No phone calls please.

The EcoSeekers™ has the sole discretion to make final determinations
in the event of conflicts or uncertainties.