



ART/WRITING CONTEST 2017

Please note new directions

I. Scope: The purpose of the Contest is to promote understanding and appreciation of the wild birds that populate the Lower Rio Grande Valley and to create awareness of the need to protect and conserve natural habitat and wildlife in general.

II. Eligibility: The Contest is open to all public, private and home-schooled students in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties, grades 5-12. Only one entry per student per category is permitted.

III. Categories:

Art: Grades 5 – 12.

Creative Writing: Grades 5 – 12.

Informative/Persuasive Writing: Grades 5 – 12.

Festival Staff reserves the right to modify categories as needed.

IV. Submission of Entries – Please read carefully!

ART Entries:

Student's name must not appear on the front of the entry. An Entry Form must be securely attached to the back of each entry. Student's name and school must also be neatly printed on the back of each entry (in case entry form is accidentally separated).

Drop off **ART** entries at:

Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building
311 East Tyler
Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255)

ART Deadline:

Art entries can be dropped off between October 10-13 at Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm until **5:00 pm, Friday, October 13, 2017**. No exceptions

WRITING Deadline:

Writing entries must be submitted *online* through our <https://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed, including uploading the writing entry. Writing entries must be received by **5:00 pm, Friday, October 13, 2017**. No exceptions.

V. Entry Content and Format:**Art:****Format:**

- All 2-dimensional media acceptable (pencil, ink, paint, marker, printmaking, graphic work, and digital). No 3-dimensional work will be accepted.
- Artwork must be the sole creation of the student.
- Entries must be mounted, matted, and backed - no glass or heavy frames.
- NOTE: Maximum overall size: 17 x 20 inches. No exceptions.

Content:

- Art must be original and depict *wild bird species found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley*, with attention to habitat.
- Bird species must be identified on entry form.
- No copying or tracing from projections.

Acknowledging Inspiration Source(s):

- If “inspiration” for entry comes from another source (i.e. a printed photograph, or an Internet photograph taken by someone else, etc.), credit must be given to that Source/Photographer/Artist by securely attaching a copy of the “inspiration image” to the back of the entry, to include printing i.e. the URL, photographer/artist’s name, and/or publisher’s name on “inspiration copy” for proper acknowledgement.

Writing:**Creative Writing:****Format:**

- Poetry (at least 12 lines)
- Short Story, Informal Prose, or Personal Essay (250 words / 1 page typewritten double-spaced or two pages handwritten)

Content:

- Reveal awareness and appreciation of the *native* wild birds and habitat of Rio Grande Valley.

Informative/Persuasive Writing:

Format:

- 250 words (1 page typewritten double-spaced).

Content:

- Information concerning the *native* wild birds and habitat of the Rio Grande Valley, including but not limited to a description of species, behavior, food preference, courtship/nesting, migration patterns, habitat, and what we can do to protect it. Suggestions: Newspaper feature, or a TV infomercial.

Acknowledging Source(s): Important.

Books, field guides, websites, web address/URLs, and other published sources used in a writing entry should be given proper credit/ acknowledgement.

VI. Trophies/Prizes: Trophies and prizes will be presented at a special awards program on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 1:30pm in the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, 1204 Fair Park. Winners' teachers will be notified by email prior to the program. Winning entries will be displayed at the Festival, November 8-12.

VII. Judging: Entries will be judged on originality, accuracy, and overall appeal of project. Entries are expected to show appreciation and knowledge of Rio Grande Valley *native* birds and their habitats. The decisions of the judges are final. Winning students and their teachers will be notified by email by October 25, 2017.

VIII. Return of Entries: **Important.** We are no longer able to store art entries for an extended period after the Festival ends.

- **Winning entries** . Winning entries will be displayed at the Festival, Nov. 8-12 and at D'Arte Centre, 115 East Jackson, Harlingen, Texas, from Nov 13-27. This art work will be the featured work at Harlingen Art Walk on the evening of Nov 24th.
- **Non-winning entries** can be picked up at Kiskadee Korner on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 3:00-5:00 pm at RGVBF site or at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) from Nov. 13-17, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. After that date art will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or discarded.

IX. Disclaimer: The City of Harlingen, the Harlingen Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, event sponsors, and employees and volunteers of all the above-named businesses and organizations will not be held responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged entries.

X. Questions & Contact Information: art_writing@rgvbf.org / 956-295-6255 (M-F afternoon); www.rgvbf.org



-- ENTRY FORM -- ART / WRITING CONTEST 2017

Please duplicate this form and attach one securely to the back of **each** entry submitted.

ART entries will be accepted at Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) from 9:00 am, Tuesday, October 10th until 5:00pm, Friday, October 13, 2017.

WRITING Entries must be submitted *online* through our <https://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed, including uploading the writing entry. Writing entries must be received by 5:00 pm, Friday, October 13, 2017.

STUDENT NAME: _____ **GRADE:** _____

ENTRY CATEGORY: _____

TITLE: _____

BIRD SPECIES DEPICTED: _____

TEACHER's NAME: _____ **PHONE** _____

TEACHER's EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

DISTRICT NAME: _____

I have read and understand section **VIII. Return of Art Entries** of the contest rules.

Student signature	Date	Teacher signature	Date
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***IMPORTANT:** WINNING entries will be displayed at D'Arte Centre, 115 East Jackson, Harlingen, TX until November 27, 2017. Winning art entry will be delivered to the school district's central office by December 8, 2017.

Non-winning entries can be picked up at Kiskadee Korner on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 3:00-5:00 pm at RGVBF site or at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255). After that date art will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or discarded.