



ART/WRITING CONTEST 2018

Teachers: Please read carefully for new information!

I. Scope: The purpose of each 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: Each 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, deadline Friday, October 12, 2018 by 5 PM.

CREATIVE WRITING: Grades 5 – 12, deadline Friday, October 12, 2018 by 5 PM.

INFORMATIVE/PURSUASIVE WRITING: Grades 5 – 12, deadline Friday, October 12, 2018 by 5 PM.

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. The official 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). *See format and content information below.* Any questions, please call RGVBF Art/Writing (956-295-6255).

Drop off **ART** entries between 9 AM – 5 PM, October 8-12 at:
Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building
311 East Tyler
Harlingen, TX 78550

WRITING Entries:

Writing entries must be submitted *online* through our <http://www.rgvbf.org> website, under the Art & Writing Contest tab. Complete the online Entry Form as directed, including uploading the writing entry. See *format and content information below*. Any questions, please call RGVBF Art/Writing (956-295-6255).

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 can be accepted.
- Artwork must be the sole creation of the student.
- Entries must be mounted, matted, and backed - no glass or frames.
- *Maximum overall size (including mat): 17 x 20 inches*. Larger entries will be disqualified.

Content:

- Art must be original and depict *wild bird species found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley*, with attention to habitat. If in doubt, consult the 2017 checklist of birds seen during the Festival on the website.
- Identify the bird species depicted on entry form.
- Copying or tracing from projections will not be acceptable.

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 the URL, photographer/artist’s name, and/or publisher’s name on “inspiration copy” for proper acknowledgement.

WRITING ENTRIES:

Creative Writing:

Format:

- Poetry (minimum 12 lines)
- Short Story, Informal Prose, or Personal Essay
- Maximum 250 words - 1 page typewritten double-spaced or two pages handwritten)
- Document must be in PDF electronic format.

Content:

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

Informative/Persuasive Writing:

Format:

- Maximum 250 words - 1 page typewritten double-spaced
- Document must be in PDF electronic format.

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 choice, and/or what we can do to protect it.

Acknowledging Source(s): Note references. 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 11, 2018 at 1:30pm in the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, 1204 Fair Park. Winners' teachers will be notified by email by October 20, 2018. Winning entries will be displayed at the Festival, November 7-11, for the public to view in the Kiskadee Korner area.

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 20, 2018.

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

- **Winning Art Entries** will be displayed at the House of Frames, 212 West Jackson St. in Harlingen from October 20- November 3, 2018. This art work will be the featured work at Harlingen Art Walk on the evening of October 26, 2018. All artwork will then be displayed at the Kiskadee Korner of the Festival from November 7-11 and may be picked up at the Awards Ceremony.
- **All Entries** can be picked up at Kiskadee Korner on Sunday, November 11, 2018 from 1:30-4:00 PM at the Festival or at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) from November 12-16, 2018 from 3:00-5:00 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).



-- ENTRY FORM -- ART / WRITING CONTEST 2018

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

ART entries will be accepted at Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 from October 8-12 between 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

WRITING Entries must be submitted online through our <http://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed, including uploading writing entry. Writing entries must be received between October 8-12, by 5:00 PM, Friday, October 12.

STUDENT NAME: _____ **GRADE:** _____

ENTRY CATEGORY: _____

TITLE: _____

BIRD SPECIES DEPICTED: _____

TEACHER's NAME: _____

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**

ALL ENTRIES can be picked up at Kiskadee Korner on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 1:30-4:00 PM at RGVBF site or at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) from November 12-16, 2018, 3-5 PM. After that date art will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or discarded.