



ART/PHOTOGRAPHY/WRITING CONTEST 2019

New Rules! Please read carefully! New Rules!

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.

Photography: Grades 5 – 12.

Festival Staff reserves the right to modify categories as needed.

IV. Submission of Entries – Please read carefully!

ART and PHOTOGRAPHY 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 and PHOTOGRAPHY entries at:
Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building
311 East Tyler
Harlingen, TX 78550
RGVBF Art/Writing (956-295-6255)

ART and PHOTOGRAPHY Deadline:

Art and Photography entries can be dropped off between **October 7 - 11** at Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building from 3-5 pm.

DEADLINE is **5:00 pm, Friday, October 11, 2019**, no exceptions.

WRITING Deadline:

Writing entries must be submitted online through our <https://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed and upload writing entry.

- Writing entries must be submitted by **5:00 pm, Friday, October 11, 2019**.

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 on a stiff backing; single matted in black, grey or white and cannot have a frame or glass.
- 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 Entries:

Creative Writing:

Format:

- Poetry (at least 12 lines)
- Short Story, Informal Prose, or Personal Essay (Maximum 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.

Acknowledging Source(s): Important.

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

Photography:

Format:

- Photographs can be in color or black and white.
- Photo should be 8"x10".
- Entries must be mounted onto a stiff backing for display purposes and should contain no frames, glass or unnatural / extreme digital enhancements.
- Photographs must be single matted in black, white or gray.
- Maximum overall size: No larger than 11"x14". No exceptions.

Content:

- Photos must be Texas-specific (i.e., taken in the Texas Rio Grande Valley).
- Entries must be photographer's original capture and cannot be a photo of others' pictures or artwork. Photoshopping is not allowed.
- Photo Category: Must include a bird in any situation (flying, eating or resting). Taking a picture with phone camera through a scope (Digiscoping) is allowed.
- Bird species must be identified on entry form.

VI. Trophies/Prizes: Trophies and prizes will be presented at a special awards program on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 1:30pm in the Harlingen Convention Center, 701 Harlingen Heights Drive. Winners' teachers will be notified by email prior to October 22.

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.

VIII. Return of Entries: **Important.** We cannot store art entries for an extended period after the Festival ends.

- **Winning entries.** Winning Art entries will be displayed at the House of Frames, 212 West Jackson, Harlingen, Texas, from October 22 - November 3, 2019 and at the Festival from November 7-10. Their artwork will be featured at the Harlingen Art Walk on the evening of October 25, 2019.
- **All Entries** must be picked up at **Kiskadee Korner at the Festival** on **Sunday, November 10, 2019 from 3:00-5:00 pm** or at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) **November 12-15, 2019 from 3-5 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 / PHOTOGRAPHY / WRITING CONTEST 2019

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

ART and PHOTOGRAPHY entries will be accepted at Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) October 7-11, 3-5 pm, until 5:00 pm, **Friday, October 11, 2019.**

WRITING Entries must be submitted online through our <https://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed and upload writing entry. Writing entries must be received by 5:00 pm, **Friday, October 11, 2019.**

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 at the Festival on Sunday, **November 10, 2019 at 3:00-5:00 pm** or at the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce Building, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550 (956-295-6255) from **3:00 – 5:00 pm November 12-15, 2019.** After that date, art will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or discarded.