



ART/WRITING CONTEST 2021

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.

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 Area Chamber of Commerce

311 East Tyler Ave

Harlingen, TX 78550

RGVBF: 956-423-5565

ART Deadline:

Art entries must be received at the RGVBF office located inside the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce during the following times, no exceptions:

- Thursday, October 7, 1pm - 5:30pm
- Friday, October 8, 1pm – 5:30pm

Directions: From US 77/83 Exit Tyler Ave. Head east on Tyler to 3rd Street. Chamber building is at the corner of Tyler Ave and 3rd Street. Visitor parking is located on the 3rd Street side of the building.

WRITING Deadline:

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 by **4pm, Friday, October 8, 2021**, 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.
- 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 (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 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 14, 2021 at 1:30pm in the Harlingen Convention Center, 701 Harlingen Heights Dr, Harlingen, TX 78552. Winners' teachers will be notified by email prior to the program. Winning entries will be displayed at the Festival, November 10-14.

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 22, 2021.

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

- Winning entries must be picked up from the Festival display area at "Kiskadee Korner" right after the awards ceremony on Sunday, November 14.
- Non-winning entries may be picked up after the Festival – at the RGVBF office located inside the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce (see directions above.) Pick up is limited to Monday, November 15 through Friday, November 19, from 2pm - 5pm when the Festival office is staffed, no exceptions.
- Art entries that are not picked up by Friday, November 19 at 5pm will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or be 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 / 956-423-5565 (M-F afternoon); www.rgvbf.org



--ENTRY FORM--ART / WRITING CONTEST 2021

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

ART entries will be accepted at the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, October 7, 2021, 1pm – 5:30pm or Friday, October 8, 2021, 1pm – 5:30pm.

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 by 4pm, Friday, October 8, 2021, no exceptions.

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**

***IMPORTANT:** Any art entry that is not picked up by 5pm, Friday, November 19 2021, will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or discarded.