



ART & WRITING CONTEST 2023

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 habitats 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 & Photography: Grades 5 – 12 **Creative Writing:** Grades 5 – 12

IV. Submission of Entries – Please read carefully!

Art & Photography Entries

The 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. The student's name and school must also be neatly printed on the back of each entry (in case the entry form is accidentally separated).

Art & Photography Drop-off Deadline

Art entries must be received at one of two sites during the listed hours, no exceptions:

Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum (2425 Boxwood St., Harlingen TX 78550)

Thursday, October 12th, 3 – 6 p.m.

Saturday, October 14th, 3 – 5 p.m.

HINOvations Art Gallery (1009 Laurel Ave., McAllen 78501)

Friday, October 13th, 10 – 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 14th, 10 – 5 p.m.

Art & Photography DEADLINE: Saturday, October 14th, 5 p.m.

Creative Writing Submission and Deadline

Writing entries must be submitted online through our <http://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed, including uploading the written entry.

Writing entries must be received by **Saturday, October 14th, 5:00 p.m.**, no exceptions.

V. Entry Content and Format

Art & Photography:

Format

- All 2-dimensional media are 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 the 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, must include the URL, photographer/artist’s name, and/or publisher’s name on “inspiration copy” for proper acknowledgment.

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 *wild bird species found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley*, with attention to habitat.

Acknowledging Source(s)

Must be included. Books, field guides, websites, web addresses/URLs, and other published sources used in a writing entry should be given proper credit/ acknowledgment.

VI. Trophies/Prizes

Trophies and prizes will be presented at a special awards program on **Sunday, November 12th, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.** 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 8th -12th.

VII. Judging

Entries will be judged on the originality, accuracy, and overall appeal of the 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 26th, 2023.

VIII. Return of Entries

IMPORTANT! We are no longer able to store art entries after the festival ends.

- Winning entries must be picked up from the festival display after the awards ceremony on **Sunday, November 12th**.
- Non-winning entries may be picked up during the Festival at the Harlingen Convention Center from 12-4 p.m. Thursday – Sunday (November 9th -12th).
- Art entries that are not picked up by Sunday, November 12th at 4 p.m. 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 Arts & Heritage Museum, HINOvations Art Gallery, 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

For questions about the contest, please contact art_writing@rgvbf.org or call (209) 227-4823 (M-F afternoon). Additional information can also be found online at: www.rgvbf.org.



**--ENTRY FORM--
ART / WRITING CONTEST 2023**

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

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY entries will be accepted at one of two sites:

Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum (2425 Boxwood St., Harlingen TX 78550)
Thursday, October 12th, 3 – 6 p.m.
Saturday, October 14th, 3 – 5 p.m.

HINOvations Art Gallery (1009 Laurel Ave., McAllen 78501)
Friday, October 13th, 10 – 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 14th, 10 – 5 p.m.

WRITING Entries must be submitted online through our <http://www.rgvbf.org> website. Complete the online Entry Form as directed, including uploading the written entry. Writing entries must be received by **5 p.m., Saturday, October 14th, 2023**, 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 Entries** of the contest rules.

Student Signature

Date

Teacher Signature

Date

***IMPORTANT:** Any art entry that is not picked up by 4 p.m., Saturday, November 12th, will become the property of the RGVBF and may be used for promotional purposes or discarded.