

2020 Writing Contest

Terms & Conditions

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MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. The MontanaPBS (PBS) Good Neighbor Writers Contest (the “Contest” or “Promotion”) is produced by MontanaPBS and based on a promotional conception from the station. The Contest begins on or about March 20, 2020, and ends on or about April 20, 2020. Announcement of winners will take place on or around April 20th at our Independent Lens documentary screening event. To enter the Contest, you may submit your entry or by online submission via the designated

Contest webpage, or by mail to:
Montana PBS
ATTN: Nikki Vradenburg
PO Box 173340
Bozeman, MT 59717

Online entries must be submitted by **April 20, 2020**. Mailed entries must be postmarked by April 17, 2020 to be eligible. These Contest rules are subject to modification by MontanaPBS at its discretion. This Contest is void where prohibited, and is sponsored and coordinated by MontanaPBS.

Please complete the MontanaPBS 2020 Writing Contest Entry Form, found at:
montanapbs.org/writingcontest

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

Entrants must be children/young adults in Pre-K through 12th grade.

Entrants will be grouped for judging by categories: Pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th and 9th- 12th. Grade categories will be provided unique prompts at the discretion of MontanaPBS. See the Contest Description PDF or visit montanapbs.org/writingcontest.

Children of employees of MontanaPBS and judges are not eligible to enter.

To be eligible, an entrant must be a resident in Montana. MontanaPBS reserves the right to disqualify ineligible entries. Only one entry per person will be accepted in this Contest; all subsequent entries will be disqualified. Only single-author stories qualify (no co-authored stories). Stories can be in prose or poetry form. Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the Contest.

No purchase is necessary.

Content Requirements

Limit content to 4 double-spaced pages. Text must be printed or written legibly or typed. Those who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed, written legibly or typed. Accompanying illustrations, designs or graphics are permitted but not required. Non-English text must be translated on the same page. Invented spelling is accepted.

Official Entry Form

To enter you must fill out and submit the 2020 Writing Contest Entry Form located at montanapbs.org/writingcontest. For mailed entry, print off and fill out the offline entry form. It must contain the required signature, confirming that the story and art are original, and granting certain rights to the entry materials. A parent/guardian signature must be present on either form. The entry form must be complete and legible to be eligible.

Judging, Awards & Notification

All entries submitted to the Contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of no fewer than 3 judges selected and coordinated by MontanaPBS. Judging will occur on or about April 23, 2020. The judging criteria and percentages shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria:

- **50% clear understanding of the prompt**
- **30% story structure and writing skills**
- **20% authenticity in writing**

All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. Winners will be as follows: (1) the entry with the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade category will be deemed a First-Place winner.

Prizes

Prizes include certificates of award, toys, apparel, and any other general PBS merchandise. First place winners will receive a custom certificate of award, and merchandise at the discretion of the Contest administrators. Potential winners will be notified by MontanaPBS in early April. Prize recipients must allow a minimum of 4 to 12 weeks from notification to delivery. Prizes are non-transferable and non-substitutable, and are not redeemable for cash.

Return of Entries

The Contest administrators are not required to return mailed entries. Only when specifically requested, Contest administrators will mail back entries. Please ensure that mailing addresses are correct and, if handwritten, legible. MontanaPBS is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries, or postage-due mail.

Rights Associated with Contest

All the following rights and conditions apply to the parent/guardian that signed on behalf of the under 18 participants. Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the participant for MontanaPBS to use the participant's name, likeness, biographical information and materials contained in the Entry Form, photographs, videos, and any statements or remarks made about the Contest in advertising and promotion without further compensation or permission, except where prohibited by law. All entries, and any copyrights therein, become the sole property of MontanaPBS. By entering, entrants agree to abide by the above stated rules,

and warrant that the entry is original work and does not infringe upon or violate rights of any third party, and grant to MontanaPBS the right to edit, publish, promote, and otherwise use their entry materials without permission, notice or compensation. No royalties will be paid at this or any time. By submitting an entry and Entry Form, each participant agrees to assign all right, title, and interest in and to the entry and Entry Form to MontanaPBS and warrants that the participant has the authority to assign such right, title, and interest. In the event that any applicable law requires certain formalities to be fulfilled to effectuate such grant of rights, each participant (and parent or guardian) agrees to cooperate with MontanaPBS to achieve fulfillment of such formalities. By submitting an Entry Form, each agrees to be bound by these Contest Rules. Each participant agrees to release and hold MontanaPBS and its employees, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, representatives, subsidiaries, parent companies, or other affiliated companies harmless from any and all damages, losses, claims and liabilities arising out of participation in the Contest or resulting from acceptance or claiming of any prize hereunder. MontanaPBS reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate, suspend or otherwise cancel the Contest at any time. Income and all other taxes are the responsibility of the prize recipient. MontanaPBS is not responsible for any expenses incurred in connection with participation in the Contest.

Privacy: Unless otherwise specified, any and all information connected with this Contest will be used by Sponsor solely for the purpose of administering the Contest and awarding prizes. No information will be sold to any other parties for any reason.

Sponsor: MontanaPBS | PO Box 173340, Bozeman, MT 59717

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