

Writers Encouraged to Enter Statewide Youth Writing Contest

The Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association is continuing the Annual Youth Writing Competition to tell the story of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The competition is open to all Virginia Middle School students. Home-schooled students are welcome to enter.

As of 2019, prizes are \$500, \$250, and \$100 for first, second and third place respectively. There will also be gear from outdoor sports businesses and Supporting Members of TOGA. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association annual membership meeting at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences in the winter. The winner's parents, a mentor, or a teacher will be guests of TOGA for the presentation event. The winning entries will be read by the students at the awards program during the Annual Meeting.

Entries should be submitted in a Microsoft Word or text file, since the three top winners will be published on the TOGA Web site, and may be in other publications or web sites. The article should be written in WORD format and attached to an e-mail. The submissions can be made between now and the December 15 deadline, annually.

General Competition Guidelines:

1. Open to all Virginia Middle School students, including those students home schooled.
2. Nonfiction only, with the theme "Consider the Oyster". Writers will create their own title for the article--other than using the words of the theme listed above. Student's name, grade/school, and home town must be printed in three lines at the top right hand corner on each page of the entry.
3. Length: a firm 500-750 words which must be typed, double- spaced.
4. Electronic submissions are encouraged; send as a Microsoft Word or plain text attachment to the competition coordinator listed below.
5. Include the attached submission form--age, grade, and school or specify if home schooled.
6. By submitting the article to the competition, permission is granted by the parent(s) and student for TOGA to post or publish the article in publications or web sites as deemed appropriate by the TOGA Competition Judges, with compensation being limited to writer credit to the student author in order to reward and recognize writing excellence, and to promote the competition throughout the year.

7. Complete mailing address and evening telephone number; include e-mail address, if available, for correspondence purposes only.
8. Submissions not meeting the competition guidelines and criteria will be disqualified.
9. Submission can be made from now to December 15.

Complete the entry form and send via email (preferred) along with article as specified in Guidelines to:

TOGA Writing Competition

Mr. Terry Lewis, Board Member, Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association
lewistmn@msn.com

Or print form, complete and send with article as specified in Guidelines via postal mail to:

Terry Lewis
TOGA Youth Writing Competition
11339 Water View Place
Gloucester, VA 23061.

If you have questions please call 804-693-2687. Good luck!