



2020 ALDO LEOPOLD WRITING CONTEST

Aldo Leopold is most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Published in 1949, the book is a classic in Western literature. Leopold believed our economic wellbeing could not be separated from the wellbeing of our environment. His land ethic asserts: “Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.” Leopold also believed our idea of community should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as soils, waters, plants, animals: “That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics.”

RESOURCES Students are encouraged to read “The Land Ethic” and other essays by Aldo Leopold as part of your preparation. These can be found in *A Sand County Almanac*, available at local libraries, bookstores, and on the internet. Visit www.LeopoldWritingProgram.org to access additional background resources.

ESSAY TOPIC The words “ecology” and “economy” both come from the same Greek root — *oikos* (see below) — but over time their subject matters have become separated. Today, because of this separation, ecologists and economists see the world differently. But the economic health of society depends on the ecologic health of the planet. An economy is only sustainable if it is informed by ecology.

How might reuniting our understanding of ecology and economy help solve today’s environmental problems?

ecology (n.) 1873, oecology, “branch of science dealing with the relationship of living things to their environments,” coined in German by German zoologist Ernst Haeckel as *Ökologie*, from Greek *oikos* “house, dwelling place, habitation” + *-logia* “study of” (see *-logy*).

economy (n.) 1530s, “household management,” from Latin *oeconomia* (source of French *économie*, Spanish *economía*, German *Ökonomie*, etc.); from Greek *oikonomia* “household management, thrift”; from *oikonomos* “manager, steward”; from *oikos* “house, abode, dwelling.”

ELIGIBILITY Contest is open to all students enrolled in grades 6-12 in public, private, and home schools in the state of New Mexico. Students must submit original work and have a sponsoring teacher sign the contest entry form. One entry per person.

FORMAT & AWARDS The length of the essays vary by category as follows:

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|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Grades 6-7: | 300-500 words | \$500 First Place |
| Grades 8-9: | 400-600 words | \$500 First Place |
| Grades 10-12: | 500-700 words | \$500 First Place |
| David E. Stuart Humanitarian Award for Overall Best Essay (at judges’ discretion) | | \$250 Bonus |

Entries may be typed or handwritten. The entry must not identify the author, sponsor, or school so that judging can be anonymous. Completed entries must be scanned into two separate PDF files: (1) the completed essay, and (2) the completed entry form (attached). Both files must be emailed to brian@goldenapplenm.org. Please include “Aldo Leopold Writing Contest” in the subject line of the email submission. If there are technological barriers to providing PDF files through email, please call Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico at (505) 268-5337. Alternative submissions will only be accepted with prior approval from Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico.

DEADLINE All entries must be emailed by 11:59 pm on Friday 21 February 2020.

For more information about the Leopold Writing Program, please visit:
LeopoldWritingProgram.org



2020 ALDO LEOPOLD WRITING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

EMAIL TO: brian@goldenapplenm.org

EMAIL DEADLINE: 11:59 pm on Friday 21 February 2020

Complete submissions must include two separate pdf files: the ESSAY and the ENTRY FORM.

AUTHOR'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

SPONSORING TEACHER'S NAME _____

SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

TEACHER'S PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

To the best of my knowledge the writing is original work produced by the author.

SPONSORING TEACHER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Teachers, how did you hear about this year's writing contest?

- Radio ad
- Email from _____
- Colleague - please share their name _____
- Other _____



The Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico is proud to partner with the Leopold Writing Program for the 2020 Writing Contest. For more information about Golden Apple Foundation, go to <https://www.goldenapplenm.org>