



2022

ALDO LEOPOLD WRITING CONTEST

Aldo Leopold is best known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Published in 1949, the book is a classic in Western literature. Leopold believed our economic well-being could not be separated from the well-being of our environment. His land ethic asserts: “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.”

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.

Please address this TOPIC and PROMPT in your ESSAY

“Land, then, is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants, and animals When a change occurs in one part of the circuit, many other parts must adjust themselves to it.”
– ALDO LEOPOLD, “The Land Ethic,” *A Sand County Almanac* (1949)

We are seeing climate changes disrupt the natural balance of this “circuit of soils, plants, and animals.” Unpredictable variations in temperature and rainfall in the Southwest are creating soil erosion, water scarcity, habitat loss, and more.

ESSAY PROMPT What actions have you taken to help “tend the land” (such as protecting soil, plants, animals, wildlife habitat, water sources, etc.), or what are your ideas for how you and other young people can help counteract the impacts of climate disruption on the different elements of your local environment?

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 varies by category as follows:

Grades 6-7:	300-500 words	\$750 First Place
Grades 8-9:	400-600 words	\$750 First Place
Grades 10-12:	500-700 words	\$750 First Place
David E. Stuart Humanitarian Award for Overall Best Essay (at judges' discretion)		\$250 Bonus

Entries may be typed or handwritten. Completed entries must be submitted as two separate PDF files: (1) the completed essay, and (2) the completed entry form. The essay must not identify the author, sponsor, or school so that judging can be anonymous. Both files must be emailed to leopoldwritingcontest@usgo.net. If there are technological barriers to providing PDF files through email, please call or text Glenda Muirhead, LWP Board Member (505.208.2497) or send email to above email address, to pre-approve alternative submissions.

DEADLINE All entries must be emailed by 11:59 pm on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

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