



2025

WRITING CONTEST

THE LEOPOLD WRITING PROGRAM

invites New Mexico students in grades 6-12
to submit original essays for our 2025 Writing Contest. Please consider
the following, and then respond to the **ESSAY PROMPT** below.

Aldo Leopold, most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*, believed our idea of “community” should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as soils, waters, plants, animals, “or collectively: the land.” He writes:



"This song of the waters is audible to every ear, but there is other music in these hills, by no means audible to all. To hear even a few notes of it ... you must know the speech of hills and rivers ... Then you may hear it—a vast pulsing harmony—its score inscribed on a thousand hills, its notes the lives and deaths of plants and animals, its rhythms spanning the seconds and the centuries."

- Aldo Leopold, "Song of the [Río] Gavilan"; from *A Sand County Almanac*

ESSAY PROMPT

Write about the song or melody that you hear in a body of water (such as a stream, river, lake, acequia, ocean, etc.) and what you would answer back.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning essayists in three categories: grades 6-7, 8-9, and 10-12.

Submissions are accepted through February 14th, 2025 at midnight.

For complete instructions and entry form, please visit
www.leopoldwritingprogram.org and follow *Writing Contest* links.

This year's contest is in partnership with the [Dear Body of Water](#) project.

