THE LEOPOLD WRITING PROGRAM

2027

WRITING CONTEST

THE LEOPOLD WRITING PROGRAM

invites New Mexico students in grades 6-12 to submit original essays for our 2027 Writing Contest. **Please consider the following quotation and then respond to the essay prompt below.**

"Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals."

—Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

ESSAY PROMPT

Leopold describes land as a "fountain of energy" moving through a connected system of soils, plants, and animals.

Consider the "fountain of energy" of food systems: the land, people, plants, animals, and traditions that shape food systems. As humans, what roles do we play as we interact with and depend upon these systems?

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

Submissions are accepted through Friday, February 19th, 2027 at midnight.

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