



THE ALDO LEOPOLD WRITING CONTEST 2019

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 idea of “community” should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as soils, waters, plants, animals, “or collectively: the land.” Leopold believed our economic well-being could not be separated from the wellbeing 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.”

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

ESSAY TOPIC Aldo Leopold’s land ethic developed from his years of reflection about both his personal relationship to the natural environment as well as society’s interactions with nature. Here in the arid Southwest, water plays a vital role in both ecosystems and economies. People use water as a resource for consumption, growing food, raising livestock, industry, and recreation. Yet, healthy ecosystems also depend on clean, flowing rivers, replenishment of groundwater, thriving lakes and ponds, and healthy oceans.

Write your own water ethic that describes or captures how you think people should relate to water resources on our planet.

In your essay, reference Leopold’s ideas while also expressing your own. Consider addressing one or more of the following in your response:

- Tell a story about your relationship with water.
- What role does water play in your life/your family/your community?
- How should people balance our use of water and the need for water in a healthy ecosystem?
- What do you think Aldo Leopold would say if he read your water ethic?

ELIGIBILITY Students enrolled in grades 6-12 in public, private and home schools in New Mexico are eligible. Students must submit original work and have a sponsoring teacher sign the entry form. One entry per person is allowed.

FORMAT AND AWARDS

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|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Grades 6-8: | 300 - 500 word essay | \$200 First Place |
| Grades 9 - 10: | 400 - 600 word essay | \$300 First Place |
| Grades 11-12: | 500 - 800 word essay | \$800 First Place Scholarship |
| Grades 6 - 12: | | Honorable Mention prizes may be awarded |

SUBMISSIONS Essays may be typed or handwritten. Essays must not identify the author, sponsor or school so judging can be anonymous. Email completed essay and entry form as two separate PDF files to brian@goldenapplenm.org. Please include “Aldo Leopold Writing Contest” in the subject line of the email. If there are technological barriers to providing PDF files through email, please call Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico at (505) 268-5337 for an alternative option. 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, February 22, 2019.

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



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ENTRY FORM

EMAIL TO: brian@goldenapplenm.org

EMAIL DEADLINE: 11:59 pm on Friday, February 22, 2019

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:

TEACHERS' PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL:

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 2019 contest. For more information about Golden Apple, go to <https://www.goldenapplenm.org>.