



Living Evergreen Essay Contest

The Snohomish County Executive's Office and its partner Allied Waste Services believe that tomorrow's leaders and thinkers will tackle pressing issues regarding the preservation and conservation of our environment through individual initiative and technology. Executive Aaron Reardon and his staff work closely with Allied and multiple partners around the region and Snohomish County to maintain Washington's reputation as the Evergreen State. Together, they create greener living standards, an environmentally sound economy, and a measure of sustainability in all that we do. To that end, they also hope to inspire young people to express their ideas and opinions about the subject through the power of persuasive writing. Through this *Living Evergreen* essay contest, three judges empanelled by Executive Reardon will select first-, second- and third-place essays from students entering grades seven through nine, and 10 through 12. The winners will be recognized and awarded along with their families as guests of the Executive at the Opening Ceremony of the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe on August 26, 2010.

Entries must be submitted before August 16, 2010.

ESSAY TOPICS

Students are challenged to answer one of the following questions.

What steps can you take in your everyday life to enhance and maintain the environment and improve sustainability?

What current technology and green-living practices do you and your family use today that helps improve the environment and what impacts do you think this makes on the environment?

What future technical advancements can you imagine for solving current environmental and sustainability challenges?

WRITING GUIDELINES

Submissions must be between 700-1,000 words. Uncommon facts or quotations should be appropriately cited either in the body of the essay or in endnotes. Entries must be original, unpublished work written by contestants themselves.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all Washington State students entering grades seven through 12 in Fall 2010. Two categories, one consisting of seventh through ninth graders, and another consisting of 10th through 12th graders, will be judged.

PRIZES

First place - \$200 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day luncheon and ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 26, 2010, with admission for the winner, plus two guests, a parking pass, and an invitation to participate at the Snohomish County Council as the recognized “County Environmentalist For-A-Day,” where the winner will have the opportunity to spend time with Executive Reardon and read the essay in front of County Council.

Second place - \$100 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 26, 2010, with admission for the winner, plus two guests, and a parking pass.

Third place - \$50 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 26, 2010, with admission for the winner, plus two guests, and a parking pass.

SUBMISSIONS

Only one essay is allowed per student. Please send entries to essaycontest@nyhus.com with your essay both included in the body of the e-mail and attached as a text document. Your entry should include your full name, age on August 26, 2010, entering grade, e-mail address, school, your address, phone number and name of your parent or legal guardian – in that order.

Essays should be typewritten, double-spaced in 12-point font. Every essay meeting the above requirements that is submitted to essaycontest@nyhus.com will be entered. All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on August 15, 2010. Submissions sent by mail must be received by the above-mentioned deadline, and can be sent to the *Living Evergreen* Essay Contest, c/o Nyhus Communications, 1525 Fourth Ave. suite 400, Seattle, WA 98109.

SELECTION OF WINNERS

Submissions will also be judged on creativity, a vision for the future, and demonstrated passion for the environment. Entries will be evaluated by a three-judge panel using methods and editorial standards required of print journalists and published authors. Decisions of the panel are final.

COPYRIGHT

All materials submitted for the contest become the property of Allied Waste Services and may appear on display at the Evergreen State Fair, on www.alliedwastenorthwest.com, in local newspapers or in independent publications.

NOTIFICATION OF A WINNER

All decisions are final and binding. First-, second- and third-place winners in each of the two categories will be notified. If administrators on behalf of the Executive's Office or Allied Waste are unable to contact a prospective winner by August 23, or if they have found that the prospective winner has failed to comply with the official rules, that individual's prize will be forfeited. Winners must be able to attend the Opening Day ceremony of the Evergreen State Fair at 2 p.m. on August 26, 2010, to collect their prizes. The prospective winner and/or parents may be required to sign a publicity release prior to Opening Day of the fair.

Please contact essaycontest@nyhus.com with questions or clarification requests. Educators and program leaders may additionally contact editor@nyhus.com for further questions.

GOOD LUCK!