

K-12 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST



To celebrate National Forest Products Week, (the third full week of October) the Idaho Forest Products Commission sponsors a statewide essay contest. Encourage students to enter the contest to learn more about Idaho's forests, build vocabulary and work toward mastering Idaho Content Standards. **Cash prizes for the winning writers and their classrooms!**

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Each essay must include student name, teacher name and email, grade, school name and town.
- Teachers: Please Submit only the top five essays per class. If you send more than five per class, the judges are unable to review your essays. Please include a list of all students who complete an essay, so we may provide a Certificate of Participation for every student. Teachers with multiple sections of a class may send the top five essays per class section
- **See next page for Background Statement, Writing Prompts & Scoring Criteria.**

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

Each winning essayist receives a certificate and a cash prize (K-2nd \$25, 3rd-5th \$50; 6th-8th \$75; 9th-12th \$100). Their classroom receives \$100, and their teacher receives a voucher to attend a Project Learning Tree workshop, plus posters and other resources. There is a string attached: The winning essayist must help decide how the class spends its cash award! Honorable mentions are named at each level. Every student receives a Certificate of Participation.

HOW DO I SUBMIT THE ESSAYS?

Online: Please upload essays online at idahoforests.org/essaycontest

Mail: IFPC Essay Contest - 350 N 9th St, #102 - Boise ID 83702

WHEN ARE ESSAYS DUE?

Essays must be submitted online or postmarked by **November 4, 2022.**

IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS

Encourage students to access different types of informational texts and use evidence to support their reasoning. Researching and writing this essay provides an opportunity to work on vocabulary, syntax, and development and organization of ideas. Students may access links to a variety of informational texts at idahoforests.org/essaycontest.

QUESTIONS? Visit: idahoforests.org/essaycontest Email: plteidahoforests.org Call: 208-334-4061

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

We expect a lot from our forests. They provide clean air and water; beautiful places to play and relax; homes for birds, fish and other wildlife; energy savings; products for people; and jobs and revenues for local communities. Trees also help capture and store carbon, reducing negative impacts to climate. When trees are harvested, the wood products made from them continue to store carbon. One of the best things about trees is that they are a renewable resource. When trees are harvested, new ones grow or can be planted. With sustainable forestry practices, our forests can continue to provide their benefits for generations to come.

WRITING PROMPT: Grades K-5

Trees and forest products touch your life every day. Write an essay to an audience of Idaho trees or a forest, expressing how you appreciate what they do for you, and what you'll do to ensure healthy trees and forests for the future. (K-1st graders may use any media for their "essay.")

WRITING PROMPT: Grades 6-12

Idaho's forests are managed by state and federal agencies, local governments, tribes, forest products businesses and individuals. Forests today face numerous challenges, including climate change and uncharacteristic wildfire. Imagine you are in charge of Idaho's forests. Write an essay for a general audience discussing the challenges faced by Idaho forests and your recommendations for how forests should be managed for the future.

GRADE LEVEL WORD LENGTH GUIDELINES

- 9-12th grade: Up to 500 words
- 6-8th grade: Up to 350 words
- 2nd-5th grade: Up to 250 words
- K-1st grade: May use any media

SCORING CRITERIA

- **Content accuracy (35 points)**
 - Clearly relates to the topic..... 10
 - Is accurate and logical..... 10
 - Provides supporting details and/or examples. Sources are cited if applicable..... 15
- **Clear writing (30 points)**
 - Grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct..... 15
 - Information is organized, neatly typed or written and has well constructed paragraphs.. 15
- **Originality (25 points)**
 - Shows individual thinking skills..... 25
- **Likability (10 points)**
 - Reader was engaged by the writing 10

TOTAL POINTS.....100

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT: IDAHOFORESTS.ORG/ESSAYCONTEST