

Bayou Preservation Association

Watershed Awareness Student Contest



We invite middle and high school students from the surrounding Houston area to participate in the 2016 Watershed Awareness Student Contest! The theme is *Our Bayous, Our Pollution*. Houston- area bayous and waterways lead to Galveston Bay in turn affecting the Gulf of Mexico and its Flower Garden Banks. We need your help to raise awareness about our local watershed and bring attention to the importance of the health of our local waterways, bayous and our bay!

We challenge you to research, explore, interpret and say something meaningful about the connections between human activity and the health of our bayous and ocean through art or shape poetry.

Please read below for general steps to follow , contest rules and how to enter.

Research

Use our website to find resources and inspiration. Perform research on your own, ask tough and complex questions about the way science and society help you interpret the theme.

Visit a bayou or local waterway to get inspiration. Make observations and start building your case for advocacy.

Research examples of Shape Poetry. A famous shape/concrete poem is "The Mouse's Tale" from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.

Create

Interpret the theme to create your own work of art or shape poetry that advocates for watershed and bayou stewardship. See Categories (below).

Submit

To enter the contest, submit both your work reflection using the submission upload form on our website.

Art: Up to three high quality photos or scans of your artwork as JPGs, PNGs or PDFs will be accepted. Please make sure they are good resolution, not crooked and can be easily viewed. Do not send .zip files.

Shape Poetry: One Word or PDF document of your created shape poem, no more than one page. Please include the title of your work and bibliography of any facts, ideas and quotes that are not your own.

Rules

- All submissions must be received by May 2, 2016 at 11:59 PM CST to be entered into the contest.
- Any student may submit only one entry per category.
- All entries must be the students' original work. While we recognize that existing sources will be used for inspiration and research, Bayou Preservation reserves the right to disqualify an entry if plagiarism is suspected.
- The student may not trace or copy any other artwork and claim it as their own.
- The winning art pieces will be displayed at Bayou Preservation's annual luncheon.
- Bayou Preservation reserves the right to reproduce submissions to be used for watershed advocacy, outreach and contest promotion.
- All winners will be notified by email the day before the public announcement.
- Bayou Preservation promises to run the contest fairly, ethically and with integrity.
- All entries must be accompanied by a Reflection – see below for further details.

Reflection

The reflection helps your audience and the judges understand more about you and your work. It is similar to an artist statement at a museum or an introduction to a book. The judges will not lower your score for a poorly written reflection, but writing a good reflection will certainly help the judges understand you and your work better. Please limit your reflection to less than 250 words. The file format can be Word or a PDF.

It is important practice to be able to talk about your work as only you can speak for the art. Speaking of your influence is one of the hardest but most fundamental skills for being an advocate. Examples of question prompts:

Why did you do what you did?
How did you create it?
What inspired the piece?

Prizes will be awarded in each of the two categories at both middle school and high school level.

Gift Cards will be awarded to each 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner

+
A Gift card for the teacher of each first prize winner

+
A canoe ride and a picnic along a local bayou for each placed winner and their family

Eligibility

- Students must reside in Houston-Galveston area or one of the surrounding counties.
- Any student in grades 6-8 or homeschool equivalent is eligible for the middle school division.
- Any student in grades 9-12 or homeschool equivalent is eligible for the high school division.

Submission

Please submit the following information via email (by deadline) with the submitted artwork and/or shape poetry to Amanda Brown.

abrown@bayoupreservation.org

- Name
- Title of Poem or Art piece
- Parent/Guardian Name
- Parent/Guardian Email Address
- Parent/Guardian Signature
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- Student's Email
- Student's School, District, Teacher and Principal

