



2010 Essay Contest

Sponsored by

Black Hills Chapter of the GERMANS FROM RUSSIA HERITAGE SOCIETY

Essay Contest Theme

**“GERMANY/RUSSIA/AMERICAS...
GIANT STEPPES TOWARD FREEDOM”**

Contest Rules
and
Entry Form

The Black Hills Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (BH GRHS) Sponsored Annual Essay Contest!

THEME: Germany/Russia/Americas...Giant Steppes toward Freedom

An Essay Contest sponsored by the Black Hills Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, an international organization, promotes the goals of the society by encouraging students to learn about the history and culture of the Germans from Russia and to learn about family genealogical research.

Chapter essay contest winners will be announced at the June 2010 Black Hills Chapter meeting, with the contest winners receiving trophies and prizes. All entries from the Black Hills Chapter Contest will be included in the International GRHS Essay Contest for judging. International Contest winners will also receive trophies and prizes and will be invited to receive their awards at a luncheon held in their honor during the GRHS Convention on 21 - 25 July 2010 in Bismarck, ND.

ELIGIBILITY: This BH GRHS Essay Contest is open to all students attending public, private, parochial, home schools, and to full-time undergraduate students at accredited universities. The subject of the paper must be related to German Russian heritage and be the contestant's original work. A contestant does not need to be of German-Russian descent to enter the contest. Resubmission of previously judged work is not permitted.

CATEGORIES:

BH GRHS winners and GRHS winners will be chosen in each of the following categories:

- I. Middle School...6th thru 8th grade.
- II. High School...9th thru 12th grade.
- III. University or College Undergraduate, limited to undergraduate students enrolled full-time in degree-seeking programs.

In addition, GRHS will choose a High School Senior Scholarship winner.

TOPICS: Essay topics may include any and all aspects of German-Russian heritage including:

- Cultural Anthropology of the German-Russians.
- Historical analysis of the reasons for the diaspora (scatter) of the German-Russians.
- German-Russian history in the Americas and Canada.
- German-Russian history in Russia, the Soviet Union, loss of Soviet citizenship, labor camps in the Soviet Union, and labor camps in England and France after World War II .
- Personal family history.

FORMAT: Formats for the paper may include:

- Research papers including argumentative and/or historical analysis.
- Creative writing, including short stories, fictional diaries, plays, historical fiction, and descriptive prose. Creative writing endeavors should evidence an exploration and understanding of German Russian history and culture.
- Genealogical history of a particular family including individual histories of ancestors.
- PowerPoint—Entries using the PowerPoint computer program, to include maps, photos, and family trees are encouraged. Basic rules for paper entries must be followed.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

Middle School:

- Entries should be typed, double spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries must include an Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.

High School:

- Entries **must** include a Works Cited/Bibliography page.
- Creative writing endeavors are welcomed and should include a bibliography of reference materials evidencing an exploration of German-Russian history.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries must include an Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.

College/University:

- Creative writing endeavors are welcomed, and **must** include a bibliography of reference materials evidencing an exploration of German-Russian history.
- Research papers shall include proper citation of source materials, utilizing either Modern Language Association (MLA) or Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) formatting.
- If an alternative citation format is used, that format should be listed at the top of the works cited page.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries must include an Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- Many GRHS chapters and genealogical societies have donated or provided books and periodicals for their local libraries. The genealogy and history sections of your local library may contain such information or other relevant information.
- Elderly members of your family may have useful information and some members of your family may have worked at transcribing your family's history.
- Helpful websites include www.grhs.com (Germans from Russia Heritage Society), www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc, and www.prairiepublic.org/features/GFR/gfrguide.pdf (Germans from Russia Heritage Collection), and www.ahsgr.org/ (American Historical Society of Germans from Russia).

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Entries are judged solely on the quality of research underlying the entry, and the writing style of the entry. All entries are submitted to a panel of judges, who complete a scoring card for each entry. Scores are then totaled to determine contest winners. Criteria for judging include historical accuracy, clarity, originality of thought, creativity, and style. Winning entries, regardless of format, shall show evidence of serious research. Contestants will not be required to read or orally present their essays.

BLACK HILLS CHAPTER AWARDS:

The Black Hills Chapter awards will be: **University Undergraduate:** 1st Place — \$150 & Runner-up - \$100.

High School: 1st Place — \$150 & Runner-up — \$100. **Middle School:** 1st Place — \$100 & Runner-up - \$75.

All winners will receive trophies. With winner's authorization, essays may be published in the Black Hills Chapter Newsletter and/or electronically on the Black Hills Chapter Website at : www.grhs.com on the Chapters page.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS:

With the winner's authorization, winning essays may be published in the GRHS Heritage Review and/or electronically on the GRHS website.

In addition, winners in each category will receive the following:

Middle School: First Place: 1st place Trophy and \$150; 2nd Place: Runner-Up Trophy and \$100.

High School: First Place: 1st place Trophy and \$150; 2nd Place: Runner-Up Trophy and \$100.

High School Senior Scholarship: Trophy and a \$250 **Gwen Pritzkau** scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring **high school senior** entry.

University: Trophy and a \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring university entry.

BH GRHS CHAPTER ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Deadline: Completed essay and entry form must be postmarked by 20 March 2010. Please mail to:

Bill Bosch, Chairman
BH GRHS Chapter Youth Committee
1825 Country Oaks Lane
Spearfish SD 57783-8067

The entry form must accompany the essay. Essays and entry forms may also be sent by e-mail to wbosch@spe.midco.net. If e-mailing a completed essay and entry form, please send a signed copy of the entry form to the above address. Additional contest information and entry forms can be found on the GRHS website at www.grhs.com on the Chapters page.

"Germany, Russia, Americas--Giant Steppes toward Freedom"

Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form

Contestant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

What motivated you to enter this contest? Did your school or a family member recommend it to you, or did you find out about the contest from another source?

Parent's or Legal Guardian's name: _____

Contestant's Signature: _____ Date: _____ 2010

*(Each entry **MUST** have a copy of this completed official entry form attached)*

GRHS Essay Contest Publication Release

We, the GRHS Essay Committee, are excited to share your work with the GRHS members and the world. Therefore, we ask your permission to publish your entry and/or your photo. Please note that entering or winning the GRHS Essay contest does not depend on your willingness to share your work. However, we will be grateful if you grant us permission to do so.

Please check one box, and fill out the information below:

_____ As a contestant in the Germans from Russia Heritage Society's Essay Contest, my parent/guardian, and I hereby **give our consent** to GRHS to make public (publish in both print and on the Internet) the information which has been submitted by the undersigned for the Essay Contest.

_____ I **do not wish** to have my essay or photo published.

Please print, sign, and if under 18 years of age, include parent/guardian signature.

Contestant's name (print) _____

Contestant's signature _____ Date _____

E-mail address _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____

Parent/guardian name (print) _____

Signature of Parent/guardian _____ Date _____

Please submit this form along with the GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form to:

Bill Bosch, Chairman
BH GRHS Chapter Youth Committee
1825 Country Oaks Lane
Spearfish SD 57783-8067