



Preserving Our Heritage
... Enriching Our Lives

Germans from Russia Heritage Society

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An International non-profit tax-exempt organization

2008 Pride in Your Heritage Youth Essay Contest

Sponsored by

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA HERITAGE SOCIETY

Youth Essay Contest Theme

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

Contest Rules
And
Entry Form

Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) Sponsored Annual Youth Essay Contest!

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

An International Youth Essay Contest, sponsored by the Germans from Russia Heritage Society with headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota, will be held to encourage students from around the world to learn about the history and culture of the German-Russians, people who emigrated from Germany into Russia during the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, in the USA, Canada, and other countries in the Western Hemisphere, these people have become known as Germans from Russia.

Contest judging will commence after the close of the Contest on 31 March, with the winners being announced after the judging has been completed. Winning contestants will be invited to attend a luncheon, held in their honor during the GRHS Convention at Casper, WY, 30 July—3 August 2008, to receive their awards. Contest winners will receive trophies and prizes, while all other entries will be given honorable mention.

ELIGIBILITY: This Youth Essay Contest is open to all students attending public, private, parochial, home schools, and 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 ethnic German-Russian to enter the contest. Contestants are encouraged to enter the Contest as long as they are eligible, but resubmission of previously judged work is not permitted.

CATEGORIES:

International 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. High School Senior.
- III. University or College Undergraduate.

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: Format for the paper may include:

- Creative writing, including short stories, fictional diaries, plays, historical fiction, and descriptive prose on topics, such as, interviews with grandparents, visits with family members, or travel to places with historical significance to the family.
- Genealogical history of a particular family, including individual histories of ancestors.
- Research papers, including argumentative and/or historical analysis.
- PowerPoint—Entries using the PowerPoint computer program, to include maps, photos, and family trees are encouraged.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

Middle School:

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

High School:

- Entries should 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 Youth Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only, and should not appear on the essay.

College/University:

- Entries should 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.
- All works other than creative works should use one of the academically accepted, standard forms of citation. Although the American Sociological Association guidelines are preferred, but other standard citation systems are acceptable.
- 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 Youth Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only, and should not appear on the essay.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- Contact the Information Desk at your local public library for material to assist in family research on German-Russian history. Many GRHS chapters and genealogical societies have donated, or provided, books and periodicals for their local libraries. The library genealogy and history sections may contain helpful information.
- Contact members of your family. 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:
- www.grhs.com Germans from Russia Heritage Society.
- <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc>, and <http://www.prairiepublic.org/features/GFR/gfrguide.pdf>. Germans from Russia Heritage Collection.
- AHSGR: <http://www.ahsgr.org/>.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Only the essay's text is judged. Contestants will not be required to read or orally present their essays. Judges are impartial and will not know who wrote the essay. Winning entries will be judged on originality, creativity, clarity, style, historical accuracy, and evidence of a serious research.

AWARDS:

With the winner's authorization, winning essays may be published in the GRHS News, 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 through the recipient's college or university.

University: Trophy and a \$750 scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring university entry through the recipient's college or university.

Official GRHS Youth Essay Contest Entry Form

Deadline: Completed essay and entry form must postmarked by 31 March 2008. Please mail to:

Vera Hoff, Chair
GRHS Youth Committee
4212 Canyon Lake Drive
Rapid City SD 57702

The entry form must accompany the essay. Essays and entry forms may be sent by e-mail to verahoff@rushmore.com. 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 are located on the GRHS website at www.grhs.com.

“Germany, Russia, Americas--Giant Steppes toward Freedom” Official GRHS Youth 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:* _____ 2008

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

GRHS Youth Essay Contest Publication Release

We, the GRHS Youth 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 Youth 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 Youth Essay Contest, my parent/guardian, and I hereby give our consent to GRHS to make public (publish) the information which has been submitted by the undersigned for the Youth 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 Youth Essay Contest Entry Form to:

Vera Hoff, Chair
GRHS Youth Committee
4212 Canyon Lake Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702