

2012-2013 HILDEGARD “HEROES AMONG US” WRITING COMPETITION
For Grades 6-12
Rules and Guidelines

Purpose: To learn about and identify “Heroes” in the community and create a written piece that tells the story of the hero selected.

Theme: *Heroes Among Us*

Overview of Competition: Everyone has a story to tell and it’s the writer’s challenge to capture the essence of that story to share and inspire the reader. Students are invited to pick up their pens (or keyboards) to capture stories of heroism through this special writing competition. As part of the “Heroes Among Us” Writing Competition, students may author some form of writing that tells the story of a “Hero” in their midst. This is an opportunity for students to share their opinions, insights and feelings through literary expression about:

- 1) A “Hero” personally known to them (either living or deceased)
- 2) A “Hero” from the community
- 3) Displays of heroism that have touched their lives or community

Note: Entrants have the responsibility to secure permission of any living “Heroes” whose names are included in their writing entries prior to beginning their work. A completed ***Hero Release Form*** must be signed by each “Hero” the entrant has named in the writing entry.

Following competition guidelines, students may submit a written entry that is an **original, non-fiction work** following the form of a **short story, essay, diary/journal entry, blog, memoir, song lyric or poem** that is 500 words or less in length. Through these submissions, entrants should tell the story of a “Hero” known to them personally or a “Hero” they wish to recognize in their community. These real-life stories must be the original work of the entrant; all submissions will be subject to a plagiarism check. No group efforts will be accepted for this competition; only creations by individual entrants will be eligible for judging. All entries will be judged by a panel and winning entries will be published in a limited-edition book entitled ***Heroes Among Us.***

Who May Enter: Students in grades 6-12 within a 50-mile radius of Lincoln, Nebraska. The writing submission must be written by a current student (public, private or home-schooled) as of February, 2013.

Instructions for Submission of Writings:

All entries, with completed and signed forms, must be submitted by a teacher/facilitator (including youth leaders, administrators and/or parents/guardians) on behalf of the student. A **maximum of 15 writing entries per school/per site** may be submitted to the “Heroes” Writing Competition to be included for judging.

For **Home-Schooled Students**, HCFA representative Cathy Harrington will act as the liaison to answer questions and facilitate participation. Cathy may be reached at 402-730-6668 or via email at lettersfromhome51@hotmail.com .

Deadline Date for Submission of Writings:

Teachers/facilitators will be responsible for the on-line submission of all writing entries on behalf of students by accessing the “**Submit Entries On Line**” tab on the left side bar of the website home page (www.hildegardcenter.org). Writing entries may be submitted beginning **December 1 up to the deadline of 5:00 p.m. December 17, 2012.**

A completed on-line **Competition Participation Entry Form** must accompany the entry. Original signed copies of the **Competition Participation Entry Form** and a **‘Hero’ Release Form** will be required for HCFA’s files for the winning entries prior to the printing of the book **Heroes Among Us**. Teachers/facilitators will be contacted at the conclusion of judging to make arrangements for the transmission of these original forms. Please contact Anne Woita (402-890-2528 or Heroes.Hildegard@gmail.com) with questions or if other arrangements need to be made to submit entries.

Judges: To be announced.

Time of Judging: Judging will take place between December 18, 2012 and February 28th, 2013. All entrants will be notified of judging results via email the week of March 11th, 2013.

Judging Criteria: Judging criteria and Rubric are posted on the Hildegard website www.hildegardcenter.org.

Reception: A special reception for winning authors will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 28th, 2013 in Lincoln at Lincoln Southwest High School. At the Reception, winning authors (as well as the “Heroes” cited in their entries) will be honored and will receive a limited-edition copy of the book **Heroes Among Us**. This compilation of the winning entries for the Writing Competition will not be available for sale to the general public but special arrangements may be made for family members, etc. to purchase copies of the book (at cost) through a pre-ordering process (details will be posted on the website, www.hildegardcenter.org in the spring of 2013). Authors will be invited to sign books at this special reception.

Pertinent Forms: Please go to www.hildegardcenter.org to download the **Competition Participation Entry Form** and **'Hero' Release Form** (if applicable).

Writing Competition Guidelines

- The writing entry must be from a current student (public, private or home-schooled as of February, 2013) in grades 6-12 within a 50-mile radius of Lincoln, NE.
- The writing entry must follow the theme "Heroes Among Us". The subject of the writing entry should either be a "hero" personally known to the entrant, a "hero" from the entrant's community or a display of heroism that has personally touched the entrant's life or community.
- The writing submission must be non-fiction and follow the form of a short story, essay, diary/journal entry, blog, memoir, song lyric or poem telling real stories about real people/events.
- The subject of the writing must be non-fiction.
- The writing entry must be the entrant's original work.
- The writing entry must be the sole work of the entrant and not be a collaborative effort.
- The writing entry must follow all Writing Competition Guidelines in order to be eligible for judging.
- The writing entry must be no longer than 500 words.
- The writing entry must include a title, the name and grade of the entrant and the school/facility of the entrant (not to be included in the total 500-word count).
- If the entrant is not affiliated with a school/facility (e.g. a home-schooled student or a student whose school is not participating in the "Heroes" project), the student should indicate the entry is independently submitted.
- The entrant's teacher/facilitator must submit the writing on behalf of the entrant.
- The writing entry must be submitted on line through the Hildegard Website.
- A completed **Competition Participation Entry Form** must accompany the on-line entry submission.
- The student and teacher/facilitator will be notified via email of the receipt of the entry by Hildegard Center for the Arts
- Legibly printed, completed and signed copies of the original **Competition Participation Entry Form** and a **'Hero' Release Form** (if applicable) will be required for HCFA's files for all winning entries prior to the printing of the book Heroes Among Us.
- All writing entrants will be notified of judging results the week of March 11th, 2013 via email.
- The selected writing entries will be published in a limited-edition book entitled Heroes Among Us.
- A special reception for winning authors will be held the afternoon of Sunday, April 28, 2013 at Lincoln Southwest High School.