

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

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. After students have had a chance to learn about heroes and the special characteristics they possess, they are invited to pick up their pens (or keyboards) to capture in print stories of heroism through a 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

Entrants have a responsibility to secure permission of any living “Heroes” featured in their writing entries prior to beginning their work. A **“Hero Release Form”** must be signed by each “Hero” the entrant has selected as the focus of their writing entry.

Through their teachers, youth leaders, administrators, facilitators and/or parents/guardians, students may submit a written entry that is an original, non-fiction work following the form of an essay, diary/journal entry, blog, memoir 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 follow all Competition Guidelines and 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*. There will be limits on the number of writing entries each school/facility may submit.

We encourage participating schools and facilities to acknowledge all student authors at their sites who have created entries for this Competition. By honoring student authors at each site, students are encouraged to embrace “Heroes” at the same time they showcase their literary talent. If any school/site would like a representative from Hildegard Center for the Arts to

attend a special reception or recognition of these student authors, we will certainly do all that we can to be part of this much-deserved recognition.

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

Deadline Date for Submission of Writings:

Teachers/facilitators within a 50-mile radius of Lincoln may select entries for submission to the Hildegard Art Competition. Hildegard Center for the Arts representative Cathy Harrington will act as the liaison for all Home-Schooled-Student entries. You can reach Cathy at 402-730-6668 (cell) or via email at lettersfromhome51@hotmail.com to discuss the logistics for submitting entries.

Teachers/facilitators will be responsible for submitting all writing entries on-line (www.hildegardcenter.org) by the deadline, 5:00 p.m. December 17, 2012, along with all required forms: **“Competition Participation Entry Form”** and **“Hero’ Release Form”**. The form must be dated and completed, printed signatures. Original signed copies of both of these forms will be required for HCA’s files for all winning writing entries prior to their inclusion in 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 at 402-890-2528 or email Heroes.Hildegard@gmail.com if other arrangements need to be made. Any entry that is incomplete or has been received past the deadline (5:00 p.m., December 17, 2012) will not be eligible for judging.

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 will be posted on the Hildegard website: (www.hildegardcenter.org) by August 15, 2012.

Reception: A special reception for winning authors (along with their teachers/facilitators, administrators, parents/guardians and “Heroes” honored in their entries) will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 28th, 2013 in Lincoln. More details will follow about the reception. At the Reception, winning authors (as well as their “Heroes” depicted in their entries and school/facility libraries) 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 to purchase copies of the book 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 obtain **“Competition Participation Entry Form”** and **“Hero’ Release Form”** to participate in the Writing Competition. These forms will be available on the website to be downloaded, completed and submitted with the writing entries. Please make sure all forms are typed and completed thoroughly with all appropriate signatures. Failure to complete all forms and obtain necessary signatures will disqualify the writing submission from consideration. Please call Anne Woita @ 402-890-2528 (or email at Heroes.Hildegard@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Writing Competition Guidelines

- 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 the story of a display of heroism that has touched the entrant’s life or community.
- The writing entry must be the entrant’s original work.
- The writing entry must be the sole work of the entrant and not a collaborative effort.
- The writing entry must follow all Writing Competition Guidelines in order to be eligible for judging.
- The writing entry must not be 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).
- The entrant’s teacher/facilitator must submit the writing on behalf of the entrant.
- The writing entry may be submitted by attaching a Word Document of the entry (following guidelines) along with all required forms with appropriate signatures (**“Competition Participation Entry Form”** and **“Hero’ Release Form”**) to be emailed to Heroes.Hildegard@gmail.com by the deadline, 5:00 p.m. December 17, 2012 **or** by mailing five paper copies of the entry along with all required forms (with appropriate signatures) to Hildegard Center for the Arts, P.O. Box 5304, Lincoln, NE 68505.
- The writing submission must have one-inch margins, size 14 print, New York Times font. If printed copies are mailed, five copies of the writing entry must be submitted on standard 8 ½ x 11 inch paper.
- The writing submission must be non-fiction and follow the form of an essay, diary/ journal entry, blog, memoir or poem. The entrant should submit real stories about real life.
- The writing entry must be from a current student (public, private or home-schooled as of February, 2013) grades 6-12 within a 50-mile radius of Lincoln, NE.
- A typed and fully completed **“Contest Participation Entry Form”** must be signed by the entrant, teacher/facilitator submitting the writing and parent/guardian in order for the

submission to be eligible for judging. The form may be downloaded at www.HildegardCenter.org.

- By signing the **“Contest Participation Entry Form”** entrants and their parents agree to allow the entrants’ names and images to be used by Hildegard Center for the Arts for website and promotional purposes.
- A typed and completed **“Hero Release Form”** signed by the “Hero” portrayed in the writing entry must be included with the submission to insure eligibility for judging. If more than one “Hero” is represented in the submission, a release form for each “Hero” must be submitted with the entry. The form may be downloaded at www.HildegardCenter.org.
- Judging criteria and Rubric will be posted on the Hildegard website (www.hildegardcenter.org) by August 15, 2012.
- By signing the **“Competition Participation Entry Form”** entrants, teachers/facilitators and parents/guardians agree to accept and be bound by all terms and official rules/regulations with respect to all matters of the Competition.
- 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 selected authors will be held the afternoon of Sunday, April 28, 2013 in Lincoln. Details will be posted on the website at www.HildegardCenter.org.

Checklist for Entry Eligibility

Each Writing Entry:

- _____ 1) is submitted by the entrant’s teacher/facilitator on behalf of the entrant.
- _____ 2) adheres to the competition theme of “Heroes Among Us”.
- _____ 3) is 500 words or less.
- _____ 4) includes a title and entrant information (name, grade and school/facility), not to be included in the 500-word total count.
- _____ 5) is non-fiction and follows the form of an essay, diary/journal entry, blog, memoir or poem.
- _____ 6) is electronically submitted or is printed (5 copies) on 8 ½ x 11” paper transmitted) with one inch margins, size 14 print and New York Times type..
- _____ 7) includes a completed **“Hero’ Release Form”** signed by the “Hero” portrayed in the writing entry.
- _____ 8) includes a typed and fully completed **“Competition Participation Entry Form”** (with all necessary signatures).
- _____ 9) is received by Hildegard Center for the Arts no later than 5:00 p.m., December 17, 2012.