



Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children Essay Contest 2011

Essay Contest Guidelines

Essay Theme: Sowing the Seeds of Change

Some ideas to get you started:

- What has working in the fields been like for you and your family?
- If you were in charge in the fields, what would you want to see different?
- How would you make working in the fields safer?
- What do you think needs to happen to make these changes?
- What changes would you like to see in the fields?

Eligibility:

Open to children of migrant or seasonal farmworkers
Children must be 10 to 18 years of age

Rules and Format:

Essay must be solely the work of the student
For ages 14-18: Essay must be between 500-700 words (2-3 typed pages, double-spaced)
For ages 10-13: Essay must be between 250-400 words (1-1 ½ typed pages, double-spaced)
Essays must be typed or printed (no cursive, illegible essays will be disqualified)
Essays are accepted in English or Spanish (English strongly encouraged)

Submissions must include the following:

- Complete Essay Application (with contact information)
- One Essay
- Must include a picture of yourself, preferably working in the field

Deadline: August 1, 2011

Prizes for each age range:

First place -- \$300
Second place -- \$200
Third place -- \$100

Submit essays and materials to:

Norma Flores López
Children in the Fields Project Coordinator
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
1726 M St. NW, Suite 602
Washington, DC 20036

All materials submitted will become the property of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs and may be used at AFOP's discretion. Materials will not be returned.

The best essays will be compiled in a booklet to be presented to key members of Congress to share a piece of the lives of migrant and seasonal farmworker youth.

Essays will be judged by the Child Labor Coalition (CLC) steering committee. The CLC is a coalition of organizations that are concerned about the well-being of children around the world. The steering committee of the CLC consists of professional leaders from the organizations that are members of the CLC. The decisions of the judges are final.

Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. (See Scoring Rubric)

Winners will be notified via telephone or by mail by August 30, 2011. First place winners will be invited to present their essay at the AFOP National Conference on September 21, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

Names of winners and winning entries will be published in AFOP's *Washington Newsline* and AFOP will issue press releases announcing the winners. All contact information of participants will be kept confidential.

Essay Application (Solicitud de Ensayo)

Name (Nombre Completo): _____

Age (Edad): _____ Date of Birth (Fecha de Nacimiento): _____

I am the child of a migrant or seasonal farmworker (Soy hijo/hija de un trabajador agrícola migrante o temporal): Yes/Sí () No ()

Gender (Sexo): Male/Masculino () Female/Feminina ()

How did you hear about the essay contest? (¿Cómo se enteró del concurso de ensayo?):

Please indicate the phone number and address where you can be reached as of August 15, 2011 (Por favor, indique el número de teléfono y la dirección donde se puede contactarle después del 15 de agosto de 2011):

Phone number (Teléfono) 1: () _____

Phone number (Teléfono) 2: () _____

Address (Dirección) 1: _____

Address (Dirección) 2: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Contact Person: (Name/Nombre) _____

Phone (Teléfono): _____

Scoring Rubric:

1 = Weak 2 = Moderately Weak 3 = Average 4 = Moderately Strong 5 = Strong

- 1. The student introduces the topic or experience in a way that draws in the audience.
1 2 3 4 5
- 2. The student clearly states the topic or experience.
1 2 3 4 5
- 3. The student focuses on his/her personal thoughts and feelings about the topic or experience.
1 2 3 4 5
- 4. The student uses memorable sensory description in relaying specific details.
1 2 3 4 5
- 5. The student presents events in chronological order or in another order that the audience can follow.
1 2 3 4 5
- 6. The student expresses the personal meaning or value of the topic or event.
1 2 3 4 5
- 7. The student concludes in a way that reiterates his/her attitude toward the topic or experience.
1 2 3 4 5
- 8. The spelling, punctuation, and grammar on the essay are accurate.
1 2 3 4 5
- 9. The essay is neatly typed or handwritten.
1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments: _____

Total Points: _____

Adapted from Rubric 41 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.