

## City of El Cerrito Recreation Department Environmental Awareness Art & Essay Contest



### A CREATIVE CHALLENGE FOR EL CERRITO TEENS

Our Ecological Footprint is defined as *the impact of human activities on nature and the environment*. It compares our use of natural resources with the earth's ability to regenerate them. This contest is an opportunity for local teens to use their writing and artistic talents to bring attention to the importance of reducing our impact on the environment.

### **THEME: *The Most Important Step to Reducing our Environmental Footprint***

Write an essay or create an art piece on what you feel is the most effectual step (or steps) humans can take to reduce their impact on the earth. What practices can we put into our daily lives that protect the land we live on, the water we rely on, and the air we breathe? What can you imagine and create to bring awareness to these practices?

#### Questions to Guide Research & Spark Inspiration

- ✚ How do human activities affect the environment? Are these effects positive or negative?
- ✚ How is the environment connected to human health and well-being?
- ✚ What responsibilities do humans have to nature and the earth's creatures?
- ✚ How large is your personal ecological footprint?
- ✚ What will happen if we do not take steps to reduce our impact on the earth?
- ✚ Who will be affected—future generations, animals, ocean organisms, etc.?
- ✚ How can we communicate about the importance of preserving the environment in a way that is impactful on others and compels them to take action?
- ✚ What strategies can writers and artists use to help others understand the importance of reducing their footprint?

#### Potential Focus Topics

- ✚ Strategies for Going Green at Home and School
- ✚ Water Conservation
- ✚ Benefits of Gardening and/or Composting
- ✚ Reducing the Use of Plastic
- ✚ Mass Transit
- ✚ Preventing Air Pollution
- ✚ Creative Reuse

## WHO CAN ENTER

Teens who live or go to school in El Cerrito are encouraged to participate in this Art & Essay Contest. Teens should enter divisions based on age at the time of entry:

**Junior Division: Age 13-14 • Senior Division: Age 15-17**

## WHY PARTICIPATE

**Gain knowledge** about critical environmental issues

**Build your portfolio!**

**Be part of a community** of teens who care about our environment

**Be recognized** at the Essay and Art Show on Friday, November 15, 2019

**Have your work showcased** at the El Cerrito Community Center, on the City of El Cerrito website, and in the Recreation e-news letter sent to thousands of households

**Use awards and recognitions** on your resume and college applications

**Earn Prizes! Thanks to the El Cerrito Art & Culture Commission and the Environmental Quality Committee, over \$500 in prizes will be awarded. Prizes include \$50 Visa Gift Cards, Passes to the California Academy of Science, and Golden Gate Whale Watching Tours.**

## HOW TO ENTER: WHAT TO SUBMIT

### Art

All 2D visual interpretations of the theme are welcome in this category. Your work may be in any 2D medium including painting, watercolor, drawing, digital art, photography, and more.

#### **Submission Requirements:**

- ✚ All artwork should include a label or tag with the name of the piece and the name of the artist (on the back or attached)
- ✚ All submissions must include an artist statement of up to 250 words. This statement should be typed, printed, and submitted with the actual art work. It must contain the artist's name.
- ✚ Works Cited: If applicable, please include a reference page (any style) citing any quotes, imagery or existing media used in your artwork that is not your own.

### Essays

Written interpretations of the theme including fiction, nonfiction, analytical essays and stories are acceptable in this category.

#### **Submission Requirements:**

- ✚ Document should be in 12-point type, Arial font; double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Include your name and the title of your work in this document. Submissions should be written in English.
- ✚ Submission length: Junior Division: 500-1,000 words (2-3 pages), Senior Division: 1,000-1,300 words (3-4 pages)
- ✚ Works Cited: Please use in-text citations (parenthetical or footnotes, any style) AND a reference page (any style) citing any quotes, ideas or facts used in your work that are not your own.

#### **Submission Categories**

Students may submit one entry per category, meaning that you may enter up to two pieces in your division: one art piece and one essay.

#### **Artist Statement**

Your statement will help the judges better understand your work and the issue you are addressing.

## HOW TO ENTER: WHERE & WHEN

### Where

A hard, original copy of your submission should be delivered to the El Cerrito Community Center at 7007 Moeser Ln. El Cerrito, CA, 94530; Attention Taylor Melton.

All submissions should include a completed El Cerrito Recreation Department Fall 2019 Registration Form. If your address is not in El Cerrito, please make a note with the name of your El Cerrito School.

It is recommended that all artwork be photographed/copied prior to submission, and a copy of all essays be made.

### When

Submissions will be accepted Wednesday, September 25 through Wednesday, October 30, 2019. The Community Center office is open M/W/alternate F from 8am-4pm, and T/Th from 8-6pm.



**Need inspiration or guidance?** Join us for a workshop on Wed, 10/9 from 3:30-5:30pm at the Community Center. Brainstorm the theme, pick up supplies, start your project, or get help with proofreading!



**Get a copy of the Registration Form at:**  
[www.el-cerrito.org/1327/Registration-Information](http://www.el-cerrito.org/1327/Registration-Information)

## ESSAY & ART SHOWCASE

After the submission deadline, submissions will be judged based on:

- ✚ How well the theme is addressed
- ✚ Originality and creativity
- ✚ Quality, technique, attention to detail and accuracy used in both writing and art

**An Essay & Art Show will take place at the El Cerrito Community Center on Friday, November 15 from 4-5:30pm.**

The event will begin with an Open House for the contestants, their family and friends, and the general public to browse the submissions, network and get to know the contest judges. Following the Open House, the contest winners will be announced. There will be one award presented to each category, in each division (4 awards total). Honorable mentions will also be recognized.



### Questions? Contact Us!

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Sponsored by the City of El Cerrito Art & Culture Commission and Environmental Quality Committee