



Living Evergreen

Second-Annual Washington State Essay Contest

The Snohomish County Executive's Office and its partner Allied Waste Services believe that tomorrow's leaders and thinkers will tackle pressing issues regarding the preservation and conservation of our environment through individual initiative and technology. Executive Aaron Reardon and his staff work closely with Allied and multiple partners around the region and Snohomish County to maintain Washington's reputation as the Evergreen State. Together, they create greener living standards, an environmentally sound economy, and a measure of sustainability in all that we do. To that end, they also hope to inspire young people to express their ideas and opinions about the subject through the power of persuasive writing and compelling video production.

Through this second-annual *Living Evergreen* essay contest, a group of judges empanelled by Executive Reardon will select first-, second- and third-place essays from students entering grades seven through nine, and 10 through 12 for written submissions. This year's contest includes a new video category open to all age groups with a first-place category only. Winners in all categories will be recognized and awarded as guests, along with their families, of the Executive at the Opening Ceremony of the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe on August 25, 2011.

Entries must be submitted before August 15, 2011.

ESSAY TOPIC

Students are challenged to focus their entry on the subject of "Renewable Energies in Washington State" and select one of the following questions to answer in their submission:

1. What is Washington's current situation regarding renewable energies and how can it be improved?
2. What steps can you take in your community and everyday life to support renewable energies and improve the environment?
3. What future technical advancements can you imagine for creating more renewable energies in Washington and improving overall sustainability?

WRITING GUIDELINES

Written essay submissions must be between 700-1,000 words. Uncommon facts or quotations should be appropriately cited either in the body of the essay or in endnotes. Entries must be original, unpublished work written by contestants themselves.

VIDEO GUIDELINES

Produced video submissions must be 1 to 2 minutes in length. Uncommon facts or quotations should be appropriately cited at the end of the video. Entries must be original, unproduced work by contestants themselves.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all Washington State students entering grades seven through 12 in Fall 2011. Two groups, one consisting of seventh through ninth graders, and another consisting of 10th through 12th graders, will be judged for separate categories of written essay and produced video.

PRIZES—WRITTEN ESSAY

First place - \$200 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day luncheon and ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 25, 2011, with

admission for the winner, plus two guests, a parking pass, and an invitation to participate at the Snohomish County Council as the recognized "County Environmentalist For-A-Day," where the winner will have the opportunity to spend time with Executive Reardon and read the essay in front of County Council.

Second place - \$100 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 25, 2011, with admission for the winner, plus two guests, and a parking pass.

Third place - \$50 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 25, 2011, with admission for the winner, plus two guests, and a parking pass.

PRIZES—VIDEO ESSAY

First place - \$200 Treasury bond, award certificate, invitation to participate with Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon in Opening Day luncheon and ceremonies at the Evergreen State Fair on August 25, 2011, with admission for the winner, plus two guests, a parking pass, and an invitation to participate at the Snohomish County Council as the recognized "County Environmentalist For-A-Day," where the winner will have the opportunity to spend time with Executive Reardon and show the video essay in front of County Council.

SUBMISSIONS

Only one essay or video submission allowed per student. Please email entries to livingevergreen@nyhus.com. For written essays, copy and paste essay in the body of the e-mail and attach it as a text document. For video essays, email a link to a private, password-protected Vimeo channel and include the login instructions. You may need a parent or guardian to assist you. Entries should include your full name, age on August 25, 2011, entering grade, e-mail address, school, home address, home phone number and name of your parent or legal guardian – in that order.

Written essays should be typewritten, double-spaced in 12-point font. Video essays should be 1 to 2 minutes in length. Every essay meeting the above requirements that is submitted to livingevergreen@nyhus.com will be entered. All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on August 15, 2011. Submissions sent by mail must be received by the above-mentioned deadline, and can be sent to the Living Evergreen Essay Contest, c/o Nyhus Communications, 720 Third Avenue, Floor 12, Seattle, WA 98104.

SELECTION OF WINNERS

Submissions will also be judged on creativity, a vision for the future and demonstrated passion for the environment. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges using methods and editorial standards required of print and broadcast journalists and published authors. Decisions of the panel are final.

COPYRIGHT

All materials submitted for the contest become the property of Allied Waste Services and may appear on display at the Evergreen State Fair, on www.alliedwastenorthwest.com, in local media outlets or in other Allied Waste Services' communication tools.

NOTIFICATION OF A WINNER

All decisions are final and binding. First-, second- and third-place winners in each of the two categories will be notified. If administrators on behalf of the Executive's Office or Allied Waste are unable to contact a prospective winner by August 22, 2011, or if they have found that the prospective winner has failed to comply with the official rules, that individual's prize will be forfeited. Winners must be able to attend the Opening Day luncheon ceremony of the Evergreen State Fair on August 25, 2011, to collect their prizes. Exact location and time will be provided to winners before the event. The prospective winner and/or parents may be required to sign a publicity release prior to Opening Day of the fair.

Please contact livingevergreen@nyhus.com with questions or clarification requests. Educators and program leaders may additionally contact livingevergreen@nyhus.com for further questions.

THANK YOU FOR APPLYING AND GOOD LUCK!