BIOGRAPHY CONTEST

for High School and Community College Students

Sponsored by

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECEIVE

The top 10 biographies will be selected by a jury pool of prominent biographers and narrative nonfiction writers. These 10 winners will each be awarded a scholarship to attend the most renowned narrative nonfiction conference in the country, The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference in Grapevine, TX, July 22-24, 2011. The scholarship also includes each winner selecting a teacher at their school to join him or her at the Mayborn Conference. The scholarship includes registration, hotel and meals for the students and their teachers (20 people total).

Winners will have their biographies evaluated and critiqued in a workshop held Friday, July 22nd, starting at 9 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m. The workshop will be conducted by James McGrath Morris, author of Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power, and executive director of Biographers International Organization. The top 10 winners will also have their biographies published by The Dallas Morning News. The winners will be honored at the Mayborn Conference's Literary Lights Gala on Saturday evening, July 23. All activities are held in the conference hotel. See details on the conference at: http://www.themayborn.unt.edu

CONTEST DETAILS

In considering the subject of your biography, keep in mind that we're looking for a factual account of the life of a little-known person, living or past, who left a deep and lasting legacy in his or her community. You are responsible for the research and writing of the biography. You may receive help, advice, and counsel from your teachers, parents, and other adults on the research. Contest sponsors are providing handouts on the biographers craft to help you prepare your biographies. You may also obtain assistance in typing your paper. But the writing, thoughts, and conclusions must be your own.

The biography may not have been previously published anywhere. Sources of information, including direct quotations, must be cited using either Kate L. Turabian, Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations or The Chicago Manual of Style.

Submissions should be paginated, double-spaced and set with one-inch margins. The biography cannot exceed 20 pages, double-spaced, or 5,250 words. Please use Times New Roman style, 12-point type.

No identification should be on any pages of the submission.

Your submission will be sent in two ways:

1. Two hard copies will be printed, unstapled and in two separate folders.
2. One electronic copy will be submitted via e-mail.

See mailing information on the application. Remember to send your application in the USPS mailing and keep a copy for yourself.

About a month prior to the conference, the biography winners will be notified by the Mayborn Conference. Each winner will be sent copies of all workshop submissions, with critique sheets and instructions. Before July 22nd, writers are expected to carefully read all the submissions in their assigned workshop, make written notations on the submissions and also complete the critique sheets. The critique sheets will be presented to each writer at the end of the workshop session, and your workshop leader will also present each workshop participant a written evaluation with suggestions on ways to revise and improve the biography.

In the critique sheets, each workshop participant will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the biography with respect to the quality of the research and the writing. Workshop participants will address such issues as clarity, comprehensiveness, creativity, the presence or lack of a narrative thread and articulated theme, vivid and concrete detail, anecdotes, metaphor, scene setting, dialogue and other literary devices used in writing the biography.

Teachers will not be included in the workshop on Friday, July 22.

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BIOGRAPHY CONTEST APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE: Friday, May 13, 2011

Fill in blanks by typing or printing. Then print form to sign.

Title of Biography _____
Author's Name _____ Author's birth date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
E-mail address _____

Name of School _____
City in which school is located _____
Teacher Name _____
E-mail address of teacher _____
Telephone number of teacher:
Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____

Name of student _____
Print please.

Signature of student _____

HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011
AND MAILED TO:
George Getschow
Writer in Residence
Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism
University of North Texas
1155 Union Circle, #311460
Denton, TX 76203-5017

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011 TO:
mayborncontest@unt.edu
State in the subject line of the e-mail submission – *Biography Submission*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Mayborn Conference Manager
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940-565-4778