



Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch Present

# 4TH GRADE ESSAY AND ART CONTEST



## Contest Information Packet for Parents/Guardians/Educators

The Board of Trustees of the Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch is sponsoring an essay and art contest for fourth-grade students in Douglas County. The contest is open to all fourth graders in public or private schools, as well as students at the equivalent level in homeschool or comparable environments.

All submissions must be received by Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch no later than May 1, 2024. Winners will be contacted no later than June 1st, with announcements being made to the community no later than June 15th. Winners will be awarded a cash prize!

### Background & Prompt

H.F Dangberg and his family are an important family in the history of Carson Valley. As such, the Dangberg family and the Dangberg home have watched the valley blossom up around them since they first claimed land in 1856. As members of this community, we want to hear from students about what people, industries, and institutions they feel have had the biggest impact in helping the valley become the community it is today.

In either written or art form, students should answer/respond to the following question:

### **What person, place or thing, has helped life and the community grow the most in Carson Valley?**

The element students discuss or portray may be a person, industry, piece of technology, or institution (school, community group, business, etc.) that they believe has made the biggest impact on the region. Things they might consider include, but are not limited to:

Indigenous People

Local Wildlife and Ecosystems

Agriculture

Cars

Tourism

Internet

Tractors or other Farm Equipment

Government

Domesticated Animals

### Awards & Recognition

There will be six prize winners and two runners-up. A first, second, and third prize will be awarded in both the Essay and Art categories, as well as two honorable mentions in each category. 1st Prize winners in both categories will each take home a prize of \$75, 2nd prize winners will be awarded \$50 each, and 3rd prize winners will be awarded \$25 each. Two honorable mentions will also be selected in each category.

## Essay Guidelines & Parameters

The essay should be organized as follows:

- Essay title, name, school name, age, and submission date should be placed in the upper left-hand corner of the page.
- Handwritten essays are accepted; however, typed submissions are preferred. If typed, the essay should be double-spaced, in either Times New Roman or Arial fonts. Margins should be standard at 1" all around. Essays should be no more than 4 pages and at least 1 full page.
  - **Introduction Paragraph:** The introduction paragraph should catch the reader's attention and include one sentence that clearly states the opinion of the author (this is often called a thesis statement). For Example: Cattle ranching has been the most important part of helping the Carson Valley community to grow because it has laid the foundation for economic development in the region.
  - **Body:** Each paragraph should contain a topic sentence and the information that supports the thesis. The best practice would be to have at least two to three body paragraphs that provide factual information to support your argument. Each paragraph should outline at least one of those pieces of information and share why students think it supports their overall argument. Paragraphs should be comprised of, at minimum, three sentences.
  - **Conclusion:** Summarize the main points and inform the reader why the topic is important.
  - **Citations:** Research is not required for this essay contest, however if students do research to complete the essay they should provide in-text references to the author and their article or book. For example: The Author of [insert book title] says [insert quote or paraphrase] or In [insert book title], the author says [insert quote or paraphrase].

## Art Project Guidelines & Parameters

- Title of piece, name, school name, age, and submission date should be clearly written on the back of the artwork.
- Artwork should be on a flat surface such as paper of any weight and density or on a flat canvas. Please do not frame or mat artwork.
- All mediums are welcomed, including multimedia works. Tracing, digital, or computer-generated images are not permitted.
- Artworks should be accompanied by a one paragraph description from the artist about the piece and what they were hoping to convey through their design.

## Submission Guidelines

- ALL submissions (Art or Essay) must be submitted no later than May 1st by 12:00 PM. Each person is allowed one submission to the contest, and submissions should be the original work of the author or artist.
- Essays with attached entry forms may be submitted via word document or PDF to [Education@dangberg.org](mailto:Education@dangberg.org).
- Handwritten essays may be submitted as a scanned document via PDF or as original copies by mailing following the instructions below or dropping off at the Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch office Tuesdays – Saturdays between 9 AM – 5 PM. Please call ahead to 775-783-9417.
- Art projects with entry forms may be mailed to Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch, PO Box 1158, Minden, NV 89423. Projects may also be dropped off at the Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch office Tuesdays – Saturdays between 9 AM – 5 PM. Please call ahead to 775-783-9417. All original artworks will be returned to the artists via pick-up.

- All participants will be required to sign a release allowing limited, non-exclusive reproduction rights to Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch.

### **Judging**

Contest entries will be blind judged by members of the Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch Board of Trustees. Judges will use the following rubrics to judge essays and artwork submissions.

#### Essays:

Essays will be ranked on a number from 1-5, with 1 being 'None' or 'limited' to 5 being 'Extremely well or good in the following areas:

- Clarity – Has the author made it clear what they are discussing in the essay and is it clear what the argument is that they are attempting make.
- Support – Does the author provide reasons that are supported by facts and details? Does the author link opinion and reasons using words and phrases? (For example: for instance, in order to, in addition.)
- Organization – Does the author introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose? Does the author provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented?

#### Art:

Artworks will be judged be ranked on a number from 1-5, with 1 being 'None' or 'limited' to 5 being 'Extremely' well or good in the following areas:

- Does the artwork successfully respond to the prompt?
- Originality and Creativity: How successfully did the artists provide an original portrayal of their topic?
- Argument: How successfully did the artist display their argument in response to the prompt?
- Clarity: Based on the write-up provided by the artist, how well does the piece communicate their intention?
- Composition and Design: How well does the medium, and various design components and composition support the artist's intention?

**Questions?** Contact Sierra Meszaros, Education Specialist at [Education@dangberg.org](mailto:Education@dangberg.org)