



## Youth Essay Contest and Guidelines



### Topic

You may be creative with your title however all entries must be relevant to the topic for this year's contest:

***What lessons have you learned from being involved in the ranching community? How do you think that will shape your future?***

Share your real-life experiences to inspire or entertain others. We encourage you to use your most engaging writing style to make your essay stand out to the reader. Tell us interesting – perhaps little-known-facts, compelling anecdotes, and your personal opinion related to the essay subject. Most importantly, share your passion for the beef industry and the ranching way of life.

### Age Categories

This contest is open to youth in the following age categories. Age as of April 1, 2022.

- Age 5 – 8
- Age 9 – 13
- Age 14 – 18

### Guidelines

***By submitting an entry, contestant accepts and agrees to comply with these rules.***

- All contestants must be a member of TSCRA (either a student member, child or grandchild of a member or whose parents are employed by a TSCRA member). Proof of membership must be submitted with entry.
- Essays should be 1,000 words or less and written in English.
- Entries must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman with a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.
- Each essay should have a cover sheet stating the contestant's name, address, phone number, email address, the title of their essay and the age division in which they will be competing and parent or guardian's name.
- Do not place your name on any of the pages of the essay. Only the cover sheet should include this information. Do include the title of your essay on each page.

- No substitutions of new drafts or corrected pages will be accepted once you have submitted your original essay.
- All entries are the property of TSCRA and will not be returned.
- Winning essays may be used for TSCRA promotional purposes at its discretion.
- Essays must be completely the original work of the contestant entering the contest and cannot have been published previously. No assistance of other parties, including but not limited to brainstorming, editing, or proof reading, is permissible. Any essay containing plagiarized text will automatically be disqualified.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Faxed submissions will not be accepted.
- Your essay will be disqualified if it does not meet the requirements or is submitted after the submission date of 5:00 pm (CST) on March 10, 2022.
- Contestants are not required to attend the Cattle Raisers Convention to be eligible to participate or win awards.
- Each contestant will receive an Expo day pass to attend the Cattle Raisers Convention if they choose. Please reach out to a TSCRA staff member to reserve this.

### **Judging**

- Essays will be judged on writing ability, creativity, originality of thought, grammar, spelling, logic, clarity, writing style, and content.
- An internal panel will judge entries prior to arrival at Convention and only the people's choice award will be judged at convention by popular vote
- All judgments are final and interpretations of the guidelines are at TSCRA's sole discretion.

### **Awards**

First, second and third place winners will be selected in each age category. Winners will receive awards as follows

1 <sup>st</sup> place:	\$250 and Plaque
2 <sup>nd</sup> place:	\$150 and Ribbon
3 <sup>rd</sup> place:	Ribbon and recognition

Winning essays may also be published in *The Cattleman* magazine.

### **People's Choice Award**

Essays will be displayed for review by attendees during the Cattle Raisers Convention. Selection of the winning entry for the People's Choice award shall be determined by popular vote, with the award given to the entry with the greatest number of votes received.

The People's Choice Winner for each contest will receive an additional \$100 prize and Plaque. There will only be one People's Choice Winner for each contest selected from all ages combined.

### **Deadline**

Your essay including cover sheet must be submitted electronically (preferably as a Microsoft Word attachment) on or before 5:00 p.m. (CST) on Thursday, **March 10, 2022** to [gharris@tscra.org](mailto:gharris@tscra.org)

*Questions regarding the TSCRA essay contest may be directed to [gharris@tscra.org](mailto:gharris@tscra.org) or 817-916-1783.*