

2023 Literacy Project Creative Contest - Why are Colorado public lands important?

Colorado is a beautifully diverse state with a lot of public lands. In fact, with more than 43% of the state's area being public lands, Colorado ranks in the top 10 states for amount of public land. These public lands are managed by several different entities at all levels, federal, state, county, and city. The United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management manage the bulk of the public lands in Colorado. The state of Colorado manages wildlife areas, state trust land with public access, and its 42 state parks. Other types of public lands include open spaces, national parks, and national monuments.

These public lands serve a variety of purposes. Ranchers can get permits for grazing livestock on public lands. People can enjoy the outdoors on public lands in many ways that include hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, trails for OHVs, jeeps, dirt bikes, and horses, and photography, along with many others.

Public lands are also needed for the water supply. Many of Colorado's watersheds begin on public land. Water is one of the most important natural resources flowing from forests and grasslands. 80% of Coloradans drink water that flows out of national forest land alone. Healthy forests and grasslands provide high quality surface water for drinking, recreation, and industrial use. Healthy forests and grasslands prevent erosion and help the soil hold moisture. They can also affect the timing of runoff and reduce the chances of flooding.

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For this creative contest, answer this question:

Why are Colorado public lands important? You may use the following prompts to help guide your thinking.

- How are public lands used?
- What type(s) of people would use public lands and what are they doing?
- What is one way you might use public lands, today or in the future? What are you doing? What do you see? What do you smell?
- How do wildlife and livestock use public lands?
- How do public lands help our natural resources?
- What rules should you follow if you use public lands?

Select ONE of the following categories to communicate why Colorado public lands are important. Judging criteria has been provided below each option.

Category 1: Draw a picture

- The use of public lands is clear to the audience.
- Artist uses details to communicate their message.
- The picture shows creativity and uniqueness.
- The picture is neat and effort is evident.

Category 2: Write a poem

- The use of public lands is clear to the audience.
- The poem is legible and has few spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors.
- The poem shows creativity and includes poetic elements.
- The poem is neat and effort is evident.

Category 3: Write an opinion or persuasive piece

- The use of public lands is clearly stated.
- The piece is legible and has few spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors.
- The piece contains an introduction, reasons, and a conclusion.
- The piece is neat and effort is evident.

Rules:

1. Entries must be the student's original creation, must be submitted using the provided 2023 Literacy Project Creative Contest Entry Form (on back), and must fit completely inside the frame of the entry form. (Copy entry form as needed.)
2. Entries must be submitted for consideration **by April 15, 2023.**
3. There are two age divisions: PreK-2nd grade students and 3rd-5th grade students.
4. Entries will be judged and voted on by a committee of judges. Winners will have their entries posted on the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture/Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom Facebook page and also be notified directly.
5. All submitted entries become the property of Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom and may be used at their discretion. Students will get credited for their original work.
6. To submit entries, take a photo or scan entry and **e-mail to lucee@growingyourfuture.com**. Entries may also be mailed to: 10343 Federal Blvd Unit J Box 224, Westminster, CO 80260. Only first names, grade, school name, and town will be displayed on any promotional material.

Prizes:

Prizes will be awarded to 12 winning students: A first place and a second place for each category in the PreK-2nd grade age group; and a first place and a second place for each category in the 3rd-5th grade age group. The teachers of the winning contest entries will also receive a prize.

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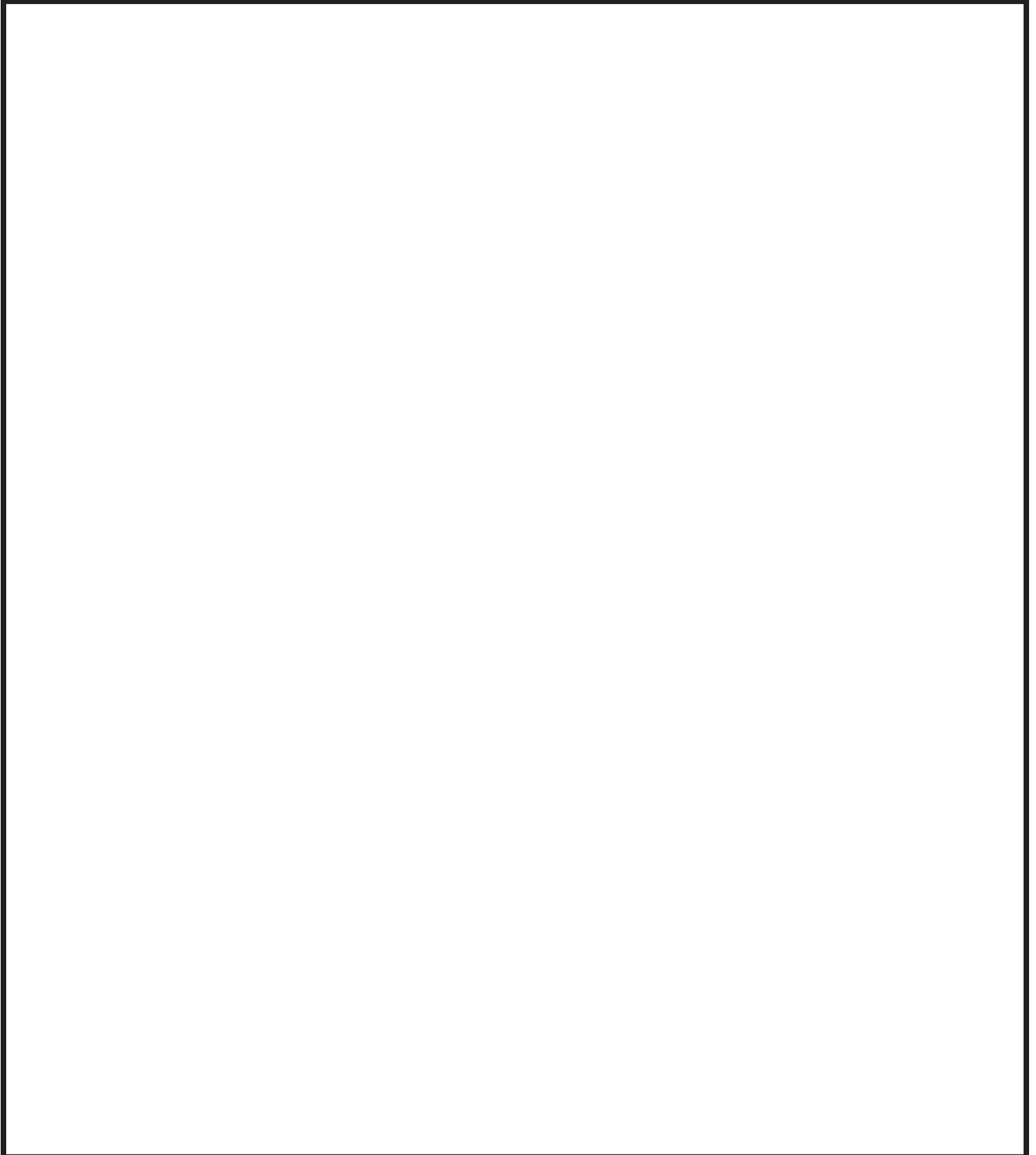
Student First Name ONLY: _____ Grade: _____

School Name: _____ School Town: _____

Each student may only submit ONE entry that answers this question: Why are Colorado public lands important?

Select entry category: Draw a picture Write a poem Write an opinion or persuasive piece

All illustrations and text must fit within this box.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for students to draw a picture or write a poem or persuasive piece. The box is currently blank.