

Clark County School District

Environmental Essay Contest

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP:

Together, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, the America's Schools Program, and The Earth Organization have joined forces with the CCSD School-Community Partnership Program to inspire and influence students to learn more about the protection and conservation of animals and the environment, while supporting district academic standards. (Please see the attached correlated standards.)

We invite students from 9th to 11th grades to enter an environmental essay contest that ties into curriculum standards set forth by the CCSD.

TOPIC:

Why We Should Protect Animals and Our Environment

GUIDELINES:

- All CCSD students in grades 9-11 are invited to write a 1-3 page essay on the above topic.
- All essays must be typed or neatly written in black ink.
- All essays must include student's name, grade level, school, and sponsoring teacher's name and signature.

SUBMITTING ESSAYS

- Essays are due in the School-Community Partnership Program office on or before **January 15th, 2009 by 5:00 P.M.**
- Teachers select their top **three** essays and submit them via school mail to:
Judy Myers – School-Community Partnership Program Office #145

~ OR ~

US mail or hand deliver to:

Judy Myers
SCPP Office
5450 W. Sahara, Suite 250
Las Vegas, NV 89146

JUDGING:

A panel of representatives from the business community, the scientific community and the CCSD School-Community Partnership Program will select the winners of the contest in a two-step process:

- 1) The selection of the winning essay finalists, and
- 2) A personal interview with the finalists based on their communication skills and interest in animals and the environment.

The grand prize winner must be willing and able to be an ambassador for the environment when he/she returns from the South African safari - helping others to understand the importance of protecting our wildlife and conserving our resources.

PRIZES:

THIRD PRIZE WINNER will receive:

- A \$300 scholarship check
- An autographed copy of the book *Babylon's Ark: The Incredible War-time Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo*, by Lawrence Anthony with Graham Spence.

SECOND PRIZE WINNER will receive:

- A \$500 scholarship check
- An autographed copy of the book *Babylon's Ark: The Incredible War-time Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo*, by Lawrence Anthony with Graham Spence.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER will receive:

- The trip of a lifetime for two (**the student and one of his/her parents**): a **one-week safari to the exclusive, private game reserve called Thula Thula (pronounced Toola Toola, which means Peace and Tranquility)** in South Africa, owned by world-renowned conservationist, Lawrence Anthony. Mr. Anthony, winner of the prestigious United Nations Earth Day Medal for his amazing act of courage in going into Iraq at the beginning of the conflict and rescuing and protecting the animals in the Baghdad Zoo for 5 ½ months. Mr. Anthony is the Founder of The Earth Organization, an international, non-profit group dedicated to finding real solutions to the environmental and wildlife problems that face us today.

While on the trip the student and his/her parent will:

- o take daily drives and walks out into the African bush with professional game rangers dedicated to their comfort, safety, and education. They will see the abundance of wildlife there including elephants, rhino, giraffes, impala, wildebeests and many more,
- o learn about conservation of wildlife and the environment,
- o meet children from the local Zulu school,
- o be entertained by Zulu dancers and singers,
- o enjoy the up-scale, luxury tented camp.

- An autographed copy of the book *Babylon's Ark: The Incredible War-time Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo*, by Lawrence Anthony with Graham Spence.

- The winners will be announced at a special press event in March of 2009 in Las Vegas.

- The Safari will take place in June of 2009.

For more information, please contact Judy Myers at (702) 799-6560.