

" National Youth Storytelling Showcase"



Event Goal:

The goal of the NYSS is to encourage every classroom in America to discover (or rediscover) the beauty and value of storytelling and story performance.

Event Rules:

- Each story must be within a time limit of 5 to 10 minutes.
- All entrants are required to seek permission of the story's author, whether it is from an in-print or non-print resource, unless your story is an original or is in the "public domain". Proof of permission from the story's author or publisher is required before you will be considered to perform during the Smoky Mountains Storytelling Festival™ in February.
- Must be 17 years old or younger on the 1st entry deadline each year.
- The entry form must be filled out completely or the videotape will not be reviewed.
- Please send one entry form per entry tape. Forms cannot be faxed.
- Use VHS tape format only. Make sure your name is clearly marked on the videotape.
- Any school, district, or storytelling group may enter any number of contestants in local competitions. After a winner has been chosen from any local group or area, a videotape of that winner's presentation (and all applicable forms) should be mailed to the National Youth Storytelling Showcase State Representative. In the event that there is no State Representative for your state, then mail entry videos directly to the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events, c/o Lila Wilson, P.O. Box 1390, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868-1390.
- Any participant having earned the title of "Grand Torchbearer" is not eligible to enter in any future year. Other entrants and national finalists, however, are eligible to re-enter.
- TANDEM storytelling was great last year and is still included this year!

Timelines:

- All selected tellers from local storytelling events must mail videotapes to the State Representatives by October 2, 2005 (or to the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events if you do not have a state contact).
- State Representatives will review all tapes and select the five (5) state finalists, and will send those five (5) videotapes to the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events by Wednesday, October 20, 2005. Videotapes must be accompanied by the required and completed entry forms or they will be disqualified.
- The Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events will establish an independent panel of judges for any entries without a State Representative, and will follow the same timeline.
- The Office of Special Events will forward the finalist entries to a select panel of national judges on Thursday, October 26, 2005.
- The national committee will forward the list of finalists to our office by November 6, 2005.
- Finalists will be notified either by telephone or email from Pigeon Forge before 5 p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2005.
- Finalists will receive an invitation to present their story during the Smoky Mountains Storytelling Festival during the National Youth Storytelling Showcase on February 2 – 4, 2006 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The "Grand Torchbearer" will be selected from among the performing finalists.

Videotape:

All videotapes should be in VHS format with only one story on each tape. Videotapes may be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped mailer.

Categories of Competition:

The twelve (12) Showcase Finalists who travel to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee will be placed into either three or four different age categories. The four youngest will be classified as Age Category A, the next four as Age Category B, and the last four as Age Category C. Tandem teams will be placed within the category that corresponds with the oldest team member. All participants must meet all eligibility requirements.

The City of Pigeon Forge and the National Storytelling Network reserve the right to invite additional participants based upon budget availability and resources.

Awards:

All Showcase Finalists will receive a trophy plus a Cash Award of \$100.00 each for participating during the festival. In the event of a Tandem story being included as a Showcase Finalist, each individual participant will receive \$100.00 each for participating during the festival.

A Storytelling Torchbearer, selected from within each age category during the festival, will receive a trophy and a Cash Award of \$300.00.

The Grand Torchbearer who will be selected during the Showcase event at the festival will receive a trophy plus a Cash Award of \$500.00.

Cash prizes do not accumulate. You can only win one (1) category. For example, if you receive the Grand Torchbearer title, then you will receive \$500 only. If you are named a Storytelling Torchbearer, you will receive \$300 only. Anyone participating in the showcase at the festival and not receiving a title will receive \$100 only.

Lodging will be provided for all finalists. Some organized meals will be held based upon sponsorship.

More details will be provided once the finalists are selected and contacted.

For more information on this event, please contact the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events at (865) 429-7350 or visit www.mypigeonforge.com or NYSS Event Director, Elizabeth Rose at 865-717-3914 or NYSS@elizabethrose.biz

Visit the sites below to download the required forms:

Entry Form: (use additional pages, if necessary)

http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-entryform.asp

Story Permission Form: (required only if subject is living)

http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-permission.asp

Permission for Videotaping and Web Page Information: (required)

http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-video_permission.asp

Interview Release Form (required only if story was developed from interview)

http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-interview_release.asp

Entrant Release Form: (required)

http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-entrant_release.asp



State Representatives (as of July, 2005):

Alabama – Open

Alaska - Open

Arizona - Brenda Bentley, 4325 East Janice Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032, 602-996-3411, blh59@cox.net

Arkansas - Open

California - Karen Rae Kraut, 7663 Jayhawk Drive, Riverside, CA, 92509-5423, 909-685-2027, jomokchu@aol.com

Colorado – Open

Connecticut – Open

Delaware – Open

District of Columbia – Open

Florida – Scott Smith, 3072 Shady Rest Road, Havana, Florida 32333, 850-539-4963, fathersonstory@aol.com

Georgia – Ferial Johnson, 1262 Citadel Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30324-3818, Home 404-636-4090, cell 404-314-8719, feriefj@att.net

Hawaii - Open

Idaho - Teresa Clark, P.O. Box 551, Iona, Idaho, 83427-0551, 208-529-3276 woodlore@srv.net or 380 Ladino Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401

Illinois – Open

Indiana – Open

Iowa – Open

Kansas – Open

Kentucky – Open

Louisiana – Mary LeCompte, 2729 Pineview Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615, 337-433-8747, mlecom3892@aol.com

Maine – Open

Maryland - Gail N. Herman, Ph D, 166 Lodge Circle, Swanton, MD 21561, 301-387-9199, gnherman@genetmail.net

Massachusetts – Open

Michigan – Open

Minnesota – Open

Mississippi - Open

Missouri - Jim Wallen, 608 East Kansas Ave., Independence, MO, 64050, (816) 254-6510 (home) and (888) 422-7697, 2crows@sunflower.org

Montana - Open

Nebraska – Open

Nevada - Open

New Hampshire – Open

New Jersey - Open

New Mexico - Mary Ellen Gonzales, 2806 Calle Campeon, Sante Fe, NM, 87505, 505-438-6265, maryelle.gonzales@comcast.net

New York – Open

North Carolina - Wright Clarkson, 4833 Addison Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211-3059, 704-770-0530, storytlr99@aol.com

North Dakota - Open

Ohio - Donna Marie Kuczynski, Sandstone Word Weavers, 803 N. Main Stamherst, OH, 44001, 940-988-2307, dmkstory@erinet.net

Oklahoma – Open

Oregon - Open

Pennsylvania - Charles Kiernan, 4458 Coffeetown Road, Schnecksville, PA, 18078, 610-799-2742, SAFRHOME@aol.com

Rhode Island – Open

South Carolina - Thom Bristow Jr., Ph.D., 208 Middlesex Road, Columbia, SC, 29210, 803-772-9458, tcbristow@msn.com

South Dakota - Open

Tennessee - Diane Judy, 539 Claude Simmons Road, Johnson City, TN, 37604,
423-282-6515, djudy54@aol.com

Texas - Joe "Doc" Moore, 4417 Morningside Way, Canyon Lake, Texas, 78133,
(830) 899-5678 docmoore@gvtc.com

Utah - Rosemarie Howard, Dramatic Dimensions, LLC, 641 East Swenson
Avenue, #4, Springville, UT, 84663, (801) 489-8453
dramaticdimensions@sisna.com

Vermont – Open

Virginia - Una MacGillivray, 2813 Timberneck Trail, Virginia Beach, VA, 23452,
(757) 486-3755 (home) and (757) 474-8411 (work) and (757) 486-6294 (fax),
umacg@exis.net

Washington – Open

West Virginia – Open

Wisconsin – Gwyn Calvetti, 702 E. Garland Street, West Salem, WI 54669, 608-
789-7020, rcalvettjr@centurytel.net

Wyoming - Open

The National Youth Storytelling Showcase

By: Dr. Flora Joy

"Tomorrow's storytelling" lies in the talents, interests, and motivations of today's YOUTH. Skills learned during the early years are often more polished than those learned later in life. Several years ago, the Master's Degree Program Option in Reading/Storytelling at East Tennessee State University decided to initiate and organize an event that encouraged and promoted youth storytelling—thus the National Storytelling Youth Olympics (NSYO). The name of the event later changed to National Youth Storytelling Hall of Fame while under the direction of Kevin Cordi. In 2005, the name again changed to National Youth Storytelling Showcase (NYSS).

The sole purpose of this event is to promote and encourage both the art and science of storytelling among pre-adult communicators. While it is recognized that the majority of storytelling events are not—and should not be—organized as "contests," this event's underlying intent is to provide students across the nation with a reason to practice numerous non-competitive communication skills.

To organize such an event, each state has one representative who is in charge of handling the experiences at the state level. Each state rep organizes the experiences for his/her state, then nominates up to five young tellers from that state to be considered as a candidate for the NYSS. These videotapes are mailed to the City of Pigeon Forge, TN before a pre-determined time in October of each year. A national committee spends considerable time with these videotapes, and then narrows the NYSS finalists to 12-16. Those finalists are invited to the upcoming NYSS, which is a 3-day affair, held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, February 2 – 4, 2006.

All of this leads to the Friday afternoon NYSS storytelling concert, where each of the young finalists tells one story. Then one "Youth Storytelling Torchbearer" will be declared in each of three or four age groups. Individuals in these age divisions will be selected not just for their storytelling talents, but also for their ambassadorship abilities in the world of storytelling. One "GRAND Storytelling Torchbearer" is declared from ALL of the young finalists.

The goal of the NYSS is to encourage every classroom in America to discover (or rediscover) the beauty and value of storytelling and story performance. All who work with young tellers should keep this goal in mind during all of the training and telling procedures.

For ALL DETAILS about the NYSS event, contact Elizabeth Rose at: NYSS@elizabethrose.biz. Elizabeth is the Event Director for 2006. The City of Pigeon Forge Special Events and The National Storytelling Network are the NYSS event sponsors.