

THIS GREAT NATION WILL ENDURE

A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

This contest is sponsored in conjunction with the presentation of *“This Great Nation Will Endure” -- Photographs of the Great Depression*, a highly-acclaimed photo exhibition focusing on the enduring legacy of the Great Depression.



SPONSORED BY

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
SOUTHEAST REGION

GENERAL OVERVIEW

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

For those born after the 1930s, the Great Depression is something that can be visualized only through photography and film. Certain images have come to define our view of that uncertain time: an anxious migrant mother with her three small children; a farmer and his sons struggling through a dust storm; a family of sharecroppers gathered outside their Spartan home. Remarkably, many of these familiar images were created by one small government agency established between by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as part of the New Deal: the Farm Security Administration (FSA). Between 1935 and 1943, FSA photographers produced nearly 80,000 pictures of life in Depression-era America, capturing the lives of school children, tenement dwellers, church members, factory workers, and small merchants.

In today's digital age, images addressing our shared humanity, triumphs, and struggles are everywhere. This photo contest will enable students to capture the majesty of everyday life while participating in the thrilling process of documenting living history through the use of a powerful primary source: photographs.

The student photography contest is part of the public programming and educational initiatives associated with the National Archives Southeast Region's hosting of **"This Great Nation Will Endure" – Photographs of the Great Depression**. Students, teachers, and families are strongly encouraged to view the exhibit at the Morrow facility as a source of inspiration for the competition. Points of contact at the National Archives Southeast Region follow:

Mary Evelyn Tomlin, Public Programs Specialist, 770-968-2555, mary.tomlin@nara.gov

James McSweeney, Regional Administrator, 770-968-2505, james.mcsweeney@nara.gov

Please contact Ms. Tomlin or Mr. McSweeney to schedule special exhibit viewings and class field trips during the run of "This Great Nation" (June 16 – November 17, 2007).

TIMEFRAME FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

The Student Photography Contest (the "Contest") will begin at 12:01 a.m. (E.S.T) on September 10, 2007 and end at 11:59 p.m. (E.S.T.) on October 5, 2007. **All photographs must be taken of events, occurrences, and places as they actually happen (candid shots) between the time period of September 10 and October 5, 2007.** The photographs cannot be set, staged, or recreated. Alteration or manipulation of photography will cause the photograph to be disqualified.

CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

The contest has four competition categories: elementary school (grades 4 - 5), middle school (grades 6 – 8), high school (grades 9 – 12), and college.

SUBJECT CATEGORIES FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHS

For this photo essay contest students will focus their attention and lenses upon one of the following five categories:

1. *Home in the Evening*
2. *Attending Places of Worship*
3. *Where People Meet*
4. *Looking Down a Street*
5. *People On and Off the Job*

Like letters and documents, photographs are forms of historical evidence. They are complex and selective sources of the “historical record.” It is important to approach them with a critical eye and ask questions of them. Why, for instance, was a photograph made? Who made it? How was it created? What was its intended audience? Where was it seen?

As you prepare for your photo shoot, please consider how your final image will be viewed by your audience. How does the photograph impact or “speak to” your audience? Placing yourself in the position of a casual viewer and competition judge will provide you with creative, emotional, and tangible markers for success.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHS & ACCOMPANYING ESSAYS

Only 8”x10” or 5”x7” hard-copy prints will be accepted. No electronic submissions will be accepted. The photo should be cropped as the submitting photographer prefers. Images must not have been digitally altered in any way other than necessary for cropping.

Students must write their name and the caption on the back of the photograph.

Students can submit one entry only.

A one-page essay, in 12-point Times Roman typeface, addressing at least **four** of the following questions must accompany each photograph. *The essay should be crafted with the understanding that should the subject photograph be selected as a winning entry all or part of the essay may be incorporated into the layout of an exhibit panel to be produced by NARA.*

1. What is happening in the photograph?
2. What circumstances does this photograph represent?
3. If there are people in the photograph, how are they dressed and what can you infer from their faces and posture?
4. If there are no people in the photograph, what are the physical surroundings and condition of the objects in the photograph?
5. Is there anything interesting or surprising about the people or situations captured in the photograph?
6. What problems or frustrations or joys are suggested by the image?
7. What type of an emotional response does the image trigger?
8. What do you hear, taste, smell, or feel from the image?
9. What is unique about the image that the photographer wanted to capture?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Teachers will determine the date that photographs and essays are due to them, remembering that contest photographs must be taken between September 10 and October 5, 2007.

Students must submit the photograph and essay using the attached form, ***“This Great Nation Will Endure” Student Photo Contest***. Please note that the form includes a parental (or guardian) consent statement approving participation in the contest as well as NARA’s use of the photograph for future promotional and educational initiatives.

Teachers will forward up to three photographs/essays received from students to the National Archives Southeast Region by **close of business on October 15, 2007**. In that same package, the teachers will submit a list containing the names of all students that participated in the photo contest. Please mail or deliver the photographs, form, and the listing to the attention of *Mary Evelyn Tomlin, National Archives Southeast Region, 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA, 30260*.

NARA is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, postage-due, misdirected, or damaged entries.

WINNER SELECTION

A panel of qualified judges selected by NARA will judge all eligible entries according to the following criteria: clarity of the photograph, composition of the photograph, unique portrayal of the theme, and emotional impact of the image. Equal weight will be given to each criterion. Decisions of the judges shall be final and binding in all respects. Judges reserve the right to not award a prize in any category where the criteria are not adequately met by any of the contestants.

AWARDS

First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each of the categories: elementary, middle, and high school. Winners will receive awards of \$150, \$75, and \$25, respectively. NARA reserves the right to change the award denomination based upon the number and quality of entries. Each student who submits a photograph will receive a certificate and be recognized at the awards ceremony. All winning photographs will be displayed in NARA's Education Center.

A recognition and awards ceremony for all participating students will be held at the National Archives on November 17, 2007. Students, teachers, and family members are encouraged to attend. No announcement of specific winners will be made in advance of the awards ceremony.

The winning photographs will be posted to the National Archives Southeast Region's website, www.archives.gov.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES SOUTHEAST REGION

“This Great Nation Will Endure” Student Photo Contest

All requested information on this form must be completed.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

School District: _____

Teacher: _____ Teacher's e-mail address: _____

Principal: _____ Principal's e-mail address: _____

This section to be completed by Teacher if student photograph is forwarded to NARA; this information is needed for awards processing should the student's entry be selected as a winning entry.

SSN of student or guardian: _____

Mailing Address of student or guardian: _____

Consent of parent or guardian: *In connection with the photograph(s) taken by my minor child, by or on behalf of the National Archives and Records Administration, I hereby*

Grant permission to NARA to post the photograph(s) to the agency's web site, www.archives.gov, and to use the photograph for educational, archival, or public relations purposes;

Grant permission to NARA to use my minor child's name in connection with the photograph;

Waive any claim for financial remuneration for NARA's use of the photograph;

Waive any right to inspect or approve the essay before it is used by NARA; and

Indemnify and hold NARA and the United States, including its employees or assigns, harmless against any liability for property damage, personal injury, loss, or expense that may result from my participation in this activity, including property damage, personal injury, loss or expense suffered by third parties.

I have read this release before signing, and I understand its contents, meaning, and impact.

Signature _____ Date _____