

Texas Renaissance Festival Journalism Contest

I am putting this at the top, because several teachers did not see it/follow it last year!

Photography/Artistic: Students may enter one submission. **This is a change from prior years, when students could enter once in each category. Now students may only enter once, period.** No limit to the number of entries per school. **Please, no “selfies.”**

We invite students who attend School Days to write a story for the press based on their experience. Photographers are invited to capture their experience. Winning articles and photos will be released to the media for an opportunity to be published!

Goal

- To emphasize journalistic writing and photographic coverage by students.
- To reward and promote excellence as an incentive to higher standards of journalistic and educational endeavor.

Entry Categories

- **Story:**
Student entries based on their experience at School Days at the Texas Renaissance Festival. Story may be in:
 - News Writing – An article which presents the latest or most current information.
 - News Feature – An article which presents an angle on the event. Strong news content with a feature angle.
 - Feature Writing – Personality profiles or human-interest general features. Emphasis should be rich in detail and liberal use of quotes.
 - Entertainment Review – Basic review on the experience of School Days or any entertainment act on site. Student performances are eligible to be the focus of the review as well.
 - Entertainment Feature – A feature story about a person or persons in any entertainment act or actor on the festival site. Student performers are eligible to be the focus of the story as well. This is a feature – not a review.
- **Photography:**
Photos must be taken by the student at School Days at the Texas Renaissance Festival. Photos are not limited to black and white. Entries into the Photography categories must be original photographs **without use of computer enhancement such as Photoshop or Instagram filters.** Emphasis is capturing the School Days at the Texas Renaissance Festival. Specific categories are:
 - Feature Photography – Candid, not posed, human interest photo with emphasis on people in their environment, no posed shots or portraits, well cropped and in focus
 - Action Photograph – Action dominates. Photos should provide a sense of movement. Well-cropped, in-focus with excellent tonal quality.
 - Portrait – A posed photograph of one or more people at School Days. The entry should capture a sense of who the people are in the photograph.
 - Fine Art Photography- artist as photographer, these will have interesting use of angle, light, color, composition. Subject is more likely to be objects, architecture, or nature. Not information driven.
- **Each entry must include a HEADLINE (Story) or CAPTION (Photo/Art).** The Headline or Caption may be written by a different student than the piece **but must enhance the entry.** Judges take quality of caption into account in both story and photography entries, so please check for proper grammar. Entries without headlines or captions will be disqualified.

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Rules and Specifications

- **Originality:**
All entries must be original work of the student(s).
- **Deadline:**
This contest deadline is November 15, 2019. Because this contest is designed to report on the experience the student(s) at the actual School Days 2019 event, no entries will be permitted prior to November 7, 2019. Submissions may only be made electronically.

Story Specifications:

All story entries must be typed using Times New Roman 12 pt font . Headlines must be Times New Roman 14 pt font, bold. Stories should be between 200-600 words. Entries may be submitted electronically or hard copy.

- **Photography Specifications:**
Entries must be submitted electronically (scanned or digital if photograph) and may be in color or black and white. Entry size specifications are maximum 800 KB (digital).
- **All entries become the property of the Texas Renaissance Festival.** Entries will not be returned and may be used as part of a promotional campaign or released to media. Students will be given credit for contribution if used to promote the Festival.
- **Please retain a “G” rating,** suitable for all ages. Entries containing profanity or vulgarity will be disqualified.
- **Eligibility:**
Students in grade 6-12 (or ages 11-18) are eligible to enter submissions. Students may attend a public, private, or home school.
- **Number of Entries:**
Story: One entry per student per type of story. No limit on number of submissions per school. The same student may enter the same type of story category twice ONLY if the second entry is in tandem with another student as a team.
Photography/Artistic: Students may enter one submission. **This is a change from prior years, when students could enter once in each category. Now students may only enter once, period.** No limit to the number of entries per school. **Please, no “selfies.”**

Scoring and Awards

- **Judging:**
Entries will be adjudicated by the Marketing Department (preliminary), then by advertising and journalism professionals in the Houston area.
- **Awards:**
First, Second, or Third in the written category, though judges reserve the right to award fewer awards if appropriate. All story categories will be judged against each other.
First, Second, and Third in each photography category, though judges reserve the right to award fewer awards if appropriate.
Medallions will be mailed to the schools as soon as judging is completed.
 - Winning entries may be selected to be used as part of a promotion of the Texas Renaissance Festival or submitted as part of a promotional package. If selected, additional details will be sent to the Teacher/Sponsor.

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- As this contest takes place following the actual School Days event, awards will be mailed to the address on the entry form.
- TRF reserves the right to award fewer winners, pending quality of submissions.

Registration is online at www.texrenfest.com