



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks

92343 Fort Clatsop Road

Astoria, Oregon 97103

February 2, 2009

Dear Teacher:

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is pleased to announce the **2009 Youth Nature Writing Contest—Your Favorite Place in the Outdoors**. This is a unique opportunity that encourages students to express their appreciation for the outdoors through writing.

To encourage students to participate in the contest, I am offering a “Writing Ranger Classroom Visit.”

During the visit I can briefly introduce the contest or offer a more in-depth full-class presentation. Topics will range from the basics of a good essay to capturing the magic of nature on paper.

As a park ranger I have taught creative writing for all age levels. At Mt. Rainer National Park I offered a ranger talk on nature journaling and here at Lewis and Clark NHP, I lead guided hikes with journaling as the main theme.

I hold a MFA in creative writing and participants from my workshops say I offer a special spark to my presentations. Many have left my hikes and courses excited to write about their favorite outdoor places.

If you are interested or have questions about the contest or a classroom visit, please call or email me. If your high school is more than an hour’s drive from Astoria, I would appreciate it if two or three classrooms could be lined up for the day or two high schools within the same proximity.

Thanks for your time and I hope to receive your students’ essays soon.

Sincerely:

Will George
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