



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

2480 B Ks. Hwy 177
Strong City, KS 66869

620-273-8494 phone
620-273-8066 fax

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

Eric Patterson (620) 273- 6034 ext. 242

4th Grade Arts and Essay Contest and Every Kid in a Park at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



In 2015 President Barack Obama announced the Every Kid in a Park initiative that gives each fourth grade student and their family a free annual pass to all National Parks and other federal lands throughout the United States. President Obama and the National Park Service hope to encourage children to spend more time outdoors exploring nature and enjoying the abundance of natural resources protected by various federal agencies.

With that in mind, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is hosting an Arts and Essay Contest for all fourth graders in the state of Kansas. Fourth graders from across Kansas are asked to submit an original essay or original drawing that answers the question, "Why is it important to protect the prairie, our history, and all of the National Parks?"

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



To create essays and artwork, students are encouraged to visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr to learn about and research the tallgrass prairie, history of the Spring Hill Ranch, and other national parks, but they should not limit themselves to preserve's website and are encouraged to conduct independent research for their essays with their teacher's or parent's guidance. You may download a registration form at this web address.

<http://www.nps.gov/tapr/learn/education/classrooms/art-and-essay-contest.htm>

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve staff and a panel of educators will judge the essay submissions on the basis of relevancy, grammar, and spelling and will judge artwork on relevancy. All essay submissions should be no longer than 250 words, typed, double-spaced and mailed to the preserve by their teacher or parent with a completed registration form. Artwork submitted for the contest should be completed on a piece of material no larger than 8.5" x 11" and mailed by their teacher or parent to the preserve. Contest submissions not accompanied by a completed registration form will not be considered. All essays and artwork will become property of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, so the student should make a copy of their essay or artwork.

The panel of judges will select three first place winners from the essay submissions and three first place winners from the artwork submissions and will announce the results of the contest on March 31, 2016 via phone call to the respective schools.

Each first place winner will receive a Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Exploration Backpack filled with field guides, a water bottle, binoculars, first aid kit, pad and pencil, magnifying glass, animal track book, birding guide, cap, and junior naturalist guide. In addition to the individual winners' prizes, they and their classmates are invited to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve for a bus ride through the preserve with a National Park Service Ranger and an activity designed just for the winners and their classmates. Finally, the winners' essays and artwork will be displayed in the preserve's Visitor Center so everyone visiting will have the opportunity to see them.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve encourages all participating teachers to print off free National Park passes for each student in their class. Educators can visit www.everykidinapark.gov to create and print free national park passes for their students. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve also invites all participating classrooms, regardless of whether or not the class has a winning essay or piece of artwork, to schedule a free two-hour tour of the historic ranch headquarters and



visitor center. You can schedule a free two-hour tour of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, regardless if you participate in the contest. Just call the rangers at 620-273-8494 (hit 0) to make arrangements. All entries must be submitted by March 11, 2016 to:

In celebration of the National Park Service 2016 Centennial and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's 20 Anniversary, the preserve invites you to discover the meaning of national parks, how your park inspires you – both in personal connections and memorable experiences.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For more information, please visit www.everykidinapark.gov, and follow the program on Twitter @everykidinapark, on [Facebook](#), on [Instagram](#) and [Youtube](#). For additional information on Tallgrass Prairie National preserve, please visit www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, call the preserve at (620) 273-8494, or visit the preserve's facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie>. To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy's website at www.nature.org/Kansas or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas>.

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