

## **Guidelines & Rules for THE BIRD DOG FOUNDATION, INC. ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

The Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. has established a Scholarship Fund to promote interest in wildlife conservation and related subjects. An annual College Scholarship Essay Contest sponsored by the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. has been in effect for several years now. This contest was created in the hopes that it would enhance scholarly training and education in wildlife and wildlife conservation as well as give financial aid for tuition the college-bound student.

Strict adherence to the contest rules is required for a winning qualification. Attention to the following instructions is essential as well. It is highly recommended that instructors review a student's work prior to submission in order to guide the student towards presenting the best essay possible. Please remind your students to check for grammatical correctness and to follow the instructions for the contest.

This document contains The Bird Dog Foundation's complete contact information, the Foundation's Essay Contest privacy policy, the contest rules, the cover sheet format to follow, the annual contest deadline and the list of acceptable essay topics.

Students are encouraged to use the Bird Dog Foundation's William F. Brown Memorial Library which is open during the business hours of: **Tuesday through Fridays: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturdays: 10:00a.m.through 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. The Museum is always closed on Mondays and most major holidays.** Check out the website's Calendar of Events section for holiday closure listings.

### **ESSAY CONTEST RULES, INSTRUCTIONS & JUDGING INFORMATION**

- The Bird Dog Foundation's Annual College Scholarship Essay Contest is open to all interested college bound high school seniors who are U. S. Citizens, in the twelfth (12th) grade level and who reside in TN, MS, and AR however the contest is also open to students who are U.S. citizens and who reside in any of the U.S. fifty (50) states who are affiliated with Field Trial, Bird Hunting, & Sporting Dog Clubs, Organizations and Associations. Students may either be directly a member or have a parent or relative who is an active member of a sporting dog Field Trial club or organization. Entrants must list their affiliation to a particular sporting dog organization on the cover sheets of their essays.
- NOT eligible to enter the contest if one is an employee or official with The Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. or a relative of any employee or official with the Foundation.
- Scholarships are awarded only to colleges, universities or other institutions of higher education which are accredited.
- An essay of **900 to 1,000 words** must be written on a topic selected from the included list. Essays may be mailed, faxed, hand delivered or emailed by the annual deadline of **April 15th** by or before midnight. If mailed, the submission must be postmarked by the deadline date. An emailed essay will be needed in addition to any other form.
- Selected essay themes should be developed from a positive constructive perspective. The student may want to consider a personal emphasis to the essay, which would be very helpful.

- **A minimum of five sources is required for a Bibliography, which must be included.** Web sites may be cited, but a minimum of three books or periodicals must be included in the citations list. If a periodical is cited, a student must include the issue number, volume number and/or publication date for identification. Reference source citations need to be numbered in the body of the essay and the citation numbers and source information listed in the Bibliography section.
- **Essays should be typed and double spaced. (It is recommended that appropriate font sizes and styles be used for example “Arial” or “Times New Roman” with font sizes no larger than 12 or 14.)**
- **The essay submission should have a total word count included.**
- A cover sheet must accompany the essay and include the following: Title of the essay; the student’s full name, the complete home mailing address including city, state & zip code, student’s home and/ or cell telephone numbers including the area code, e-mail address (if available), name and address of the student’s High School, and the date the essay was created. (See the suggested cover sheet form on page 4)
- **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Students should submit their original essays to The Bird Dog Foundation to the attention of the Education Coordinator. The annual deadline for submissions is by or before midnight of April the 15th of each year.** Essays may be submitted any time prior to the deadline and may be dropped off in person, mailed, shipped, e-mailed or faxed. If mailed, all essays **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15TH.** All essays will need to be submitted in email format. Entrants will be prompted via email to send in an emailed version before the final judging takes place.
- No submitted essays will be returned to the students.
- No essay submitted to this contest may be submitted to another organization by the entrant for another contest purpose.
- An independent, outside panel of judge(s) selected by the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. will determine the final winners.
- **Finalists will be judged by the following criteria: quality and suitability of content, grammar, originality, depth of research, composition skills and adherence to the contest submission instructions.**
- The First Place winner will receive a one-time, \$1500.00 tuition scholarship award made payable only to an accredited college, university, or other bona fide institution of his or her choice, upon receipt of proof of registration/enrollment at that institution. The Second Place Winner will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship award which is payable to an institution under the same conditions set forth for the First Place winner.
- An award ceremony for the winner(s) will be scheduled to take place at the Bird Dog Foundation’s Museum facility in Grand Junction, TN after the judging is completed.
- All participants will be sent the contest results via email.

### **PRIVACY POLICY**

- The Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. does not collect website visitor information.
- No fees are required to enter the College Scholarship Essay Contest.
- There are no requirements for students to submit private secure information in order to enter the Essay Contest. Entrant's full name, complete residential mailing address, email address, phone number for alternative contact if needed, date and name & address of the school they currently attend are asked for on the cover sheet of the essay submission. Other information such as parent's names and mailing addresses may be asked for if the entrant's essay is selected as a winner. This information is needed in order to mail invitations and announcements regarding the Essay Contest Award Ceremony.
- No social security numbers are asked for but winning students will be asked for their college ID numbers in order to facilitate the transfer of scholarship funds.
- All information will be kept completely confidential and not shared with any other entity.
- If selected as a winner, the student agrees to give permission to share his/her basic information (name, address, phone number) for the purpose of awarding the scholarship(s) to the college or university that the winner(s) would be attending. The name of the winning student(s) may also be submitted by the Bird Dog Foundation to the student's high school guidance counselor, school Principal, English Instructor and or other teachers.
- In addition, the Bird Dog Foundation will send announcements regarding the contest winners to local newspaper(s) in the vicinity of The National Bird Dog Museum and to newspapers and online news publications in the locale where the winning student(s) reside for promotional reasons.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**SEND ESSAYS TO:**

Education Coordinator

Phone: (731) 764-2058.

The Bird Dog Foundation, Inc.

Fax: (731) 764-3004.

505 W Hwy 57 P.O. Box 774

Email: BirdDogLibrary@gmail.com

Grand Junction, TN 38039

Website: [www.birddogfoundation.com](http://www.birddogfoundation.com)

**MUSEUM HOURS: CLOSED ON MONDAYS & MAJOR HOLIDAYS** Open: Tuesdays through Fridays: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sundays: 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

**Suggested Essay Contest Cover Sheet Format**

Title of Essay

Student's Full Name

The complete Home Mailing Address

Student's Contact Telephone Number(s)

Student's Personal E-Mail Address

Name & Complete Mailing Address of the High School the Student Currently Attends

Name and Contact Information/Referral from a Sporting Dog Club or Field Trial Organization (ONLY  
PROVIDE IF STUDENT LIVES OUTSIDE OF THE ACCAEPABLE STATES)

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

### **Acceptable Essay Topics and Corresponding Definitions**

The Bird Dog Foundation's primary mission is to preserve and promote the traditions of bird dogs, field trials, hunting, and shooting sports. The Wildlife Heritage Center and the educational arm of the Foundation strive to instill awareness of our natural world and develop interest in all the many facets of conservation and wildlife as these topics have a direct relation to the primary mission. If there is to be a future for sporting dogs, the younger generations and their children must come to appreciate the necessity for the game bird habitat retention and improvement and sound natural resources conservation. Therefore, the Foundation has selected the topics listed below which focuses most on the core mission of the organization. Strict adherence of the topics listed below is required in order for an essay to be eligible for entry into the annual Bird Dog Foundation College Scholarship Essay Contest.

#### **Conservation and Wildlife**

- **GAMEBIRDS:** For example: The various aspects and habitats of game birds or water birds (can focus on one or more species) predators specific to these species, their reproducing/ nesting habitats, study of the game bird eggs, growth or decline of population (improving, declining, and/or remaining the same over a period of time and the factors involved and the factors involved), aviculture (the raising and care of birds and especially wild birds in captivity)..
- **HABITAT FOR GAME BIRDS AND WATER BIRDS:** For example: Description of the habitat environment, its ecological diversity, and the natural resources, plants, etc. needed to sustain populations of game birds and water birds such as grouse, quail, prairie chickens, pheasants, ducks, geese, etc. Land use and practices which help to preserve and promote the native habitat of these species. Historical factors that have been found that may be contributing directly to a decline in population of these specific game birds, etc.
- **THE BENEFITS OF HABITAT CONSERVATION ON FARMS AND RANCHES** For example: This topic could also include what agencies and organizations work towards improving habitat, etc. What are the benefits to wildlife, what are the benefits to humans, etc.
- **THE ROLE OF HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN IN CONSERVATION:** This topic could also include the topic of laws that pertain to the hunter/fisherman, ethics, what/how their involvement helps to conserve or contribute to the management of wildlife as a natural resource.
- **FAMOUS CONSERVATION ADVOCATES IN HISTORY:** For example: Aldo Leopold, Henry William Herbert (aka. Frank Forester), etc.
- **FORESTRY, GRASSLANDS, & WETLANDS:** For example: The art of managing and tending a forest, grassland, wetland or water resource. Good stewardship practices/effects of bad stewardship practices that impact these ecosystems. Fire's role in the ecosystem of forests and grasslands. Wildlife and native plants in those areas, the effects of invasive/exotic plants in those ecosystems, etc.

**Sporting Dogs and Field Trials**

- BREEDS OF DOGS THAT FALL WITHIN THE CATEGORY OF SPORTING DOGS: For example, there are 40 different breeds that fall within this group: Pointers, Setters, Spaniels, Retrievers, German Shorthaired Pointers, etc. Their attributes, history or field trial activities. Can select one breed to write on or several in same essay.
- TRAINING SPORTING DOGS FOR VARIOUS FIELD TRIALS & TO HUNT GAME: For example, how to successfully (or unsuccessfully) train the dogs, stories of trainers, who they are and how they operate, etc. What is daily life like operating a kennel that trains sporting dogs, where are the best locations to train during certain time of year, etc.
- FIELD TRIALS FOR SPORTING DOGS: For example, the history of field trialing, historical accounts of some trials, what they are all about, etc. How judging works during a trial, various locations where sporting dog competitions are held, etc.
- THE AMES PLANTATION, THE ANNUAL FIELD TRIAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HELD THERE:
- FAMOUS FIELD TRIAL AUTHORS AND REPORTERS IN HISTORY: For example, Nash Buckingham, A. F. Hochwalt, etc.