



The Great American Chestnut Tree

2019 Essay Contest

Terra Alta/East Preston School

PURPOSE: To increase knowledge and understanding of our heritage, the Great American Chestnut Tree, and to select a Junior Prince and Princess for the West Virginia Chestnut Festival on Sunday 13 October 2019.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: All seventh and eighth grade students at the Terra Alta/East Preston School may participate.

PRIZES: \$100.00 will be given to 1st place winners, \$25.00 will be given to 2nd place winners.

SELECTION OF WINNERS: Winners will be selected based on their essays which will be judged by a panel of three judges.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS: Write an essay of 350-500 words about any aspect of the Great American Chestnut Tree. Topics might include: Reasons to save the American Chestnut Tree, Restoring Forests, Legacy of the Chestnut, Wildlife Food, Reclamation, Furniture Timber, Cuisine, Breeding Programs, Disease, Why involve school children in chestnut projects, On-going chestnut research projects, The different characteristics/qualities among the American, European and Chinese chestnuts.

ESSAY DEADLINE: Collection of essays by Mr. Sypolt will be on Friday 20 September 2019. The Parent/Guardian permission letter needs to be attached to the essay.

OBLIGATIONS OF WINNERS: The Junior Prince and Princess 1st place winners of the contest will arrive at the Szilagyi Center Auditorium at 5:00 pm on Sunday 13 October 2019. They will carry the crowns for the crowning of Mr. and Ms. Chestnut before the Gala Dinner. The names of the Junior Prince and Princess will be announced, and they will wear small crowns to be returned to us after the ceremony.



PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION LETTER

Allowing student participation in the WV Chestnut Festival Essay Contest

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's class has been chosen to participate in the WV Chestnut Festival essay contest through Terra Alta/East Preston School.

We respect your role as a parent/guardian. Please contact your child's science teacher if you have any questions.

If you allow your child to participate in the contest, talk about it with him/her. If he/she is comfortable with the idea of writing an essay about the Great American Chestnut Tree, please grant your permission to enter the contest by signing below. Attached is more detailed information with ideas for writing an essay about the Great American Chestnut Tree.

Thank you for your time. We are sure this contest will be of great benefit to everyone involved.

Sincerely,

School Principal

I give permission for my child, _____, to participate in the 2019 WV Chestnut Festival Essay Contest through the Terra Alta/East Preston School.

I understand the rules of the contest and reserve the right to withdraw my child at any time before the winners are awarded. I give permission for my child's school to submit the essay in order to best support my child in this contest.

If my child is a winner of the contest, I will allow him/her to participate at the Gala Banquet during the WV Chestnut Festival. I will bring my child to the Szilagyi Center for this occasion as needed.

As Parent/Guardian, I agree to allow the Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee to use the winner's essay to display, distribute, reproduce, in whole or part, in any media; however, the property rights of the essay remain the property of the parents.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date