

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Information

This \$50 contest is funded by Blackfoot Communications and Flint Creek Free Masons and is administered through the Philipsburg Area Education Foundation (PAEF). Four \$50 or more awards shall be made to students from Granite County and Helmville.

## ELIGIBILITY:

The contest is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with residency in Granite County and Helmville Elementary School. LATE and/or INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS shall not be considered.

**TOPIC:** What does community mean to me?

The goal of this contest is to learn to write an essay worthy of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student. The topic may vary and will be presented by the PAEF Grade School Coordinator. The key to a winning paragraph is not to stray from the topic sentence.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Complete the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Application (see [paefmt.com](http://paefmt.com) for application forms)
2. Write an essay (introductory paragraph, a two or three paragraph body of the essay to support the topic sentence and a concluding paragraph) about community.
3. The essay must be legibly hand-printed or typed using a standard size 12 font and double spaced.
4. The essay must be written to reflect Montana Standards for Writing for Grade 4.
5. Submit the application and by the last Friday in March to the address below. If the contest is not offered in school, please meet the deadline as stated in the EVALUATION section of this document.

## EVALUATION:

Up to three student applications from each Granite County grade school and from Helmville Elementary shall be chosen by their teacher, forwarded for final evaluation and awarded through a PAEF Scholarship Committee. Home school students will submit their essays directly to the Grade School Coordinator for evaluation.

Each school's winning candidates' applications must be mailed by the last Friday in March to: **PAEF P. O. Box 900, Philipsburg, MT 59858**. Mark the envelope "4<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest." Or contact the Grade School Coordinator for pickup.

The final evaluation shall include standards as listed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards: Writing Standards and Language Standards for Grade 4: These standards can be accessed at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov) - Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects by Grade-Band.

## AWARD:

The student will receive a cash award – one for each area grade school winner: Philipsburg, Hall, Drummond and Helmville (homeschool students will fall into the nearest grade school's area to their home).

The winning student must give consent or denial to PAEF to publish their name and essay in their newsletter and news releases.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Application

Name:		Date:
Mailing Address:		
City and State:		Zip:
Contact Phone:	Email address:	
Parent or Guardian Information for 4th grader:		
Father's Name:	Mother's Name:	
School Attended: _____ Drummond _____ Philipsburg _____ Hall _____ Home School or _____ Helmville		
Teacher, Instructor, or Mentor's Name:		
Topic for paragraph:		
Guidelines: The essay may be hand-written or type-written using a standard size 12 font and double spaced. It should be a complete paragraph (topic sentence, at least 5 sentences to support the topic sentence and a concluding sentence) and free of grammar and spelling errors.		
Evaluation: Standards for Grade 4 as listed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) <i>College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards: Writing Standards and Language Standards</i> . These standards can be accessed at <a href="http://www.opi.mt.gov">www.opi.mt.gov</a> <i>Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts &amp; Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects by Grade-Band</i> .		
Authorization of Use: If my essay is judged to be the winner of this contest, I give my consent to its being published in my name in PAEF's publications and news releases.		
Applicant's signature:	Date:	
Parent signature (if required):	Date:	
NOTE: Deadline: last Friday in March. Late and/or incomplete applications and essays shall not be considered.		

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Procedures

### Teacher or Instructor Notification:

1. PAEF Grade School Coordinator or designee shall send an email to elementary teachers and instructors on or about February 1<sup>st</sup> to include the most current contest information, application, and procedures.
2. The PAEF website shall post the most current information, application and procedures – [www.paefmt.com](http://www.paefmt.com)

### Student Notification and Execution:

1. Teachers and instructors shall notify their students of the writing contest including requirements and deadlines for submission.
2. Teachers and instructors shall provide students with the *4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Application Form*.
3. Up to three student applications from each school shall be chosen by their school's selection process and forwarded for final evaluation and award through the PAEF Scholarship Committee. If the contest is not offered in school, any 4<sup>th</sup> grade student may forward an application for evaluation to PAEF.
4. Essays must be delivered to the PAEF Grade School Coordinator or mailed by the last Friday in March to: **PAEF, P. O. Box 900, Philipsburg, MT 59858**. Mark the envelope "4<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest."
5. The PAEF Grade School Coordinator shall notify the winning student(s) in person or writing in accordance with established notification procedures.
6. The PAEF Grade School Coordinator shall notify the teachers and instructions, and provide feedback from the evaluation process.
7. Teachers and instructors may notify participating students of contest outcomes and any other relevant information they choose to share.

### Final Essay Evaluation:

1. The final evaluation shall include standards as listed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) *College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards: Writing Standards and Language Standards for Grade 4*: These standards can be accessed at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov) - Montana Common Core Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.
2. PAEF Scholarship Committee shall consist of a minimum of four members to evaluate the final submissions.
3. The final submissions shall be judged using an evaluation form and rubric to reflect standards with assigned point values.

# Essay Evaluation Form

Evaluation Date:

Committee Member Name:

## Evaluation Rubric

### Evaluation Description

### Points Given

1 = none or minimally  
2 = met the basic criteria  
3 = exceptional use

This essay is legibly hand-written or type-written, size 12 font, double spaced.

There is a clear introductory paragraph.

There are at least two paragraphs to support the topic. Each paragraph includes interesting things and elaboration that enhances the student's essay and their view on community.

There is a concluding paragraph to wrap up the essay, so that the closing echoes the introduction.

Each sentence is grammatically correct with proper punctuation and spelling.

The essay is interesting – there are a variety of descriptive words to engage the reader.

**Total Score**