

15th ANNUAL YOUTH WRITING COMPETITION

The Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. (VOWA) announces its 15th Annual Youth Writing Competition for 2007. The goal of the contest is to reward young people for excellence in communicating their personal experiences in and of the outdoors.

The competition is open to all Virginia students in grades 9 through 12. Home-schooled students are welcome to enter.

The theme of this year's contest is based on your most memorable outdoor experience. An experience by the writer with hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, hiking, birding or other outdoor activity should be the predominant subject matter. No athletic event or competition is an eligible subject matter.

Submissions can be submitted in a Microsoft Word or text file since the three top winners will be published on the VOWA web site, and may be in other publications or on web sites.

E-mail submissions are encouraged—write the document and then attach it to an e-mail. The submissions can be made between now and the **January 31, 2008**,

deadline.

If there are too few quality entries the judges have the right to declare a “no contest.”

Awards will consist of gift certificates and gear from outdoor sports businesses and Supporting Members of VOWA. Over \$500 in prizes will be awarded.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the VOWA's Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia, on March 19, 2008, with the time and place to be announced. The winners parents (or mentor/friend) will be guests of VOWA for the presentation event.

General Contest Guidelines for 2007:

1. Open to all Virginia students in grades 9--12, including those students who are home schooled.

2. Nonfiction only, with the theme "My Most Memorable Outdoor Experience." Writers will create their own name for the article--other than using the words of the theme listed above.

3. Length: a firm 500-750 words which must be typed, double-

spaced.

4. Electronic submissions are encouraged; send as a Microsoft Word or plain text attachment to the contest coordinator listed below.

5. Include the attached submission form--age, grade, and school or specify if home schooled.

6. Complete mailing address and evening telephone number; include e-mail address, if available, for correspondence purposes only.

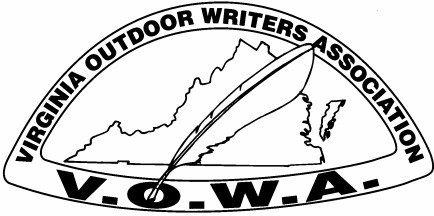
7. Submissions not meeting the contest guidelines and criteria will be disqualified.

8. Submission can be made from now to the deadline of **January 31, 2008**.

9. Send submissions to:

David Coffman
VOWA President
Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland
Fisheries
P. O. B 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
Tel: 804-367-0720
Email:
david.coffman@dgif.virginia.gov

Submission form is on the next page.



SUBMISSION FORM

Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.'s
15TH Annual Youth Writing Contest

Submission due via regular or e-mail between now and January 31, 2008

Complete the following information and submit with your article to confirm eligibility and to facilitate direct contact to notify contest Award winners. Students making submissions will be notified by email or telephone only if they are winners. Award winner names will be posted on the VOWA web site after the annual meeting awards presentation on March 19, 2008 (tentative date).. Please review and adhere to all contest guidelines as posted on the VOWA Web site: www.vowa.org

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE : _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL (OPTIONAL): _____ PHONE: (area code) _____ number _____

SCHOOL NAME (note if home schooled): _____

ADDRESS: _____

GRADE: _____ AGE: _____ Teacher's name: _____

Telephone: (area code) _____ number _____ e-mail: _____

Parent or Guardian, please sign the following approval statement for your child to enter the VOWA Youth Writing Contest :

Our/My child has our/ my permission to submit an article for judging in the VOWA Youth Writing Contest in accordance with the rules posted on the VOWA Web site. Members of VOWA are granted permission to contact our/ my child via telephone, email or regular postal mail regarding their contest submission and for notification of award status and attending the awards presentation during the VOWA Annual Meeting tentatively scheduled for March 19, 2008, at a place and time to be announced.

Parent: _____ Parent _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Contact information if different from student information above: _____

Name of my entry (your own title on the entry): _____

Word count: _____

Send this completed form along with article by January 31, 2008 to:

David Coffman, VOWA President

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

POB 11104, Richmond, VA 23230

Tel 804-367-0720

Email: david.coffman@dgif.virginia.gov