



George Washington Carver National Monument Art and Essay Contest for 3rd and 4th Graders

Kindness is free, and we want to spread it everywhere! Therefore, we invite your students to enter original artwork and essays inspired by the theme of kindness and the selected quote by George Washington Carver. This contest is open to 3rd and 4th graders. The entry deadline is **February 14, 2025**.

Theme - Kindness

Based on the theme of kindness and George Washington Carver's quote: "Unkindness to anything means an injustice done to that thing. If I am unkind to you I do you an injustice, or wrong you in some way. On the other hand, if I try to assist you in every way that I can to make a better citizen and in every way to do my very best for you, I am kind to you." George Washington Carver (1914, January 31). Being Kind to the Soil, *Negro Farmer*, 29. [For reference, the full quote follows.]



Second Place Winner, Individual Art 2017

Contest Guidelines and Information

Kindness full quote:

“Unkindness to anything means an injustice done to that thing. If I am unkind to you I do you an injustice, or wrong you in some way. On the other hand, if I try to assist you in every way that I can to make a better citizen and in every way to do my very best for you, I am kind to you.... The above principles apply with equal force to the soil. The farmer whose soil produces less every year, is unkind to it in some way; that is, he is not doing by it what he should; he is robbing it of some substance it must have, and he becomes, therefore, a soil robber than a progressive farmer.”

Entry Rules and Submission

ART

- Open to all 3rd-4th graders
- 3rd & 4th grade entries judged together
- Limit one art category entry and one essay per student
- Art judged in three categories: 2-D, 3-D, or groups (3-5 students)
- 2-D or 3-D artwork limited to 24” on any side
- Submit by mail, in person, or email one photo as .jpg or .pdf
- Cover page and release statement must be included with each entry
- Entry postmark deadline is **February 14, 2025**

ESSAY

- Open to all 3rd-4th graders
- 3rd & 4th grade entries will be judged separately by grade
- Limit one art category entry and one essay per student
- Essays limited to 500 words, typed or hand-written
- Submit by mail, in person, or email one file as .doc, .pdf, or .jpg
- Cover page and release statement must be included with each entry

- The entry postmark deadline is **February 14, 2025**

Judging - Educators, artists, and other qualified judges volunteer their time to judge art entries. Art is judged on theme expression, originality, technical ability, and creativity. An art show will be set up in the visitor center beginning **March 1, 2025**. Essay judges are pre-service teachers, retired educators, authors, and others interested in youth writing. Essay judging is based on the 6+1 trait writing scoring guide:

<https://www.nps.gov/gwca/learn/education/art-and-essay-contest.htm>

Awards – An awards ceremony and reception is set for **March 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.** First place art winners receive a voucher to attend an art class at Spiva Center for the Arts. First place essay winners receive a George Washington Carver biography. First, second, and third place winners in each category receive a medal and all participants receive an official certificate.

Special guest: Roary the Lion from Missouri Southern State University will join the awards fun! Get your photo taken with Roary! Refreshments will be served.

Contest Guidelines and Information

Teacher Resources:

1. **Carver the Artist** lesson plans are available at:
<https://www.nps.gov/teachers/teacher-resources.htm#q=George%20Washington%20Carver>, or call or email to have this sent to you.
2. **Film** (12 min.): **George Washington Carver, A Man of Character**
<https://www.nps.gov/gwca/learn/education/curriculummaterials.htm>
3. **Classroom Visits or Virtual Visits** with park rangers to discuss the theme.
4. **Art and Essay Webpage**
<https://www.nps.gov/gwca/learn/education/art-and-essay-contest.htm>
5. **Education Standards**
Missouri State Standards
Writing: 1.A., 1.B, 1.C, 2.B
Language: 1.A, 1.B
National Visual Arts Standards –
Media Arts
Pr6.1.3, Pr8.1.3
Pr6.1.4, Pr8.1.4

Partners:

This contest is generously supported by [Department of Teacher Education - Missouri Southern State University](#), [Carver Birthplace Association](#), and [Spiva Center for the Arts](#) and [Volunteers In Parks](#).

[George Washington Carver National Monument](#) preserves the birthplace and childhood home of the renowned scientist and educator. George Washington Carver was a prolific writer and creative artist. This contest strengthens writing skills and encourages artistic expression and we look forward to seeing your students' inventive submissions!

Send Submissions To:

gwca_interpretation@nps.gov

George Washington Carver National Monument

5646 Carver Road
Diamond MO 64840

For questions, call **417-325-4151**

Cover Page and Release Statement

Student Name _____ **Grade Level** _____

School Name _____

Title of Artwork or Essay _____

Teacher Name _____

Teacher Email _____

Telephone _____

George Washington Carver National Monument 3rd & 4th Grade Art and Essay Contest Release Statement

I declare and affirm that I am the person who created the work submitted and that I consent to the art and/or essay being entered in the Art and Essay Contest and for it to be displayed, should it win 1st-3rd place, on the George Washington Carver National Monument website and/or in other publications at George Washington Carver National Monument.

Student signature _____ Date _____