

ALDO LEOPOLD SOUTHWEST LEGACY

THE ALDO LEOPOLD WRITING CONTEST

Aldo Leopold is most widely known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Published in 1949, the book is a classic in Western literature. Leopold believed that our idea of “community” should be enlarged to include non-human elements such as “soils, waters, plants, animals, or collectively: the land.” He called this “the land ethic” and asserted that our economic well-being could not be separated from the well-being of our environment. As part of this land ethic, Leopold also believed it was critical for people to have a close personal connection to the land. Today, we can look to Leopold’s ideas and writings to guide us in understanding how to address our pressing environmental issues and make decisions about our future.

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” --“Good Oak,” Aldo Leopold

Why is it important to know where your food and energy come from, and how can you or how have you made changes in your family or school life that reflect this understanding?

Your response to the first part of the question should reflect an understanding of Leopold’s land ethic and his views on our relationship to the natural environment. In answering the second part of the question, describe actions you have already taken and/or outline a plan for future action that you are committed to implementing.

We encourage you to read “The Land Ethic,” “Good Oak,” or other essays by Aldo Leopold as part of your preparation. These can be found in *A Sand County Almanac*, available at local libraries and bookstores, as well as on the internet. More information is also available at www.bosqueschool.org or by contacting the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration at dara.johnson@bosqueschool.org.

ELIGIBILITY All students enrolled in grades 6-12 in public, private, and home schools in the state of New Mexico. Bosque School students are ineligible to apply due to the school’s sponsorship of the contest. Students must submit original work and have a sponsoring teacher sign the contest entry form. One entry per person.

FORMAT AND AWARDS The length of the essay varies by category as follows:

Grades 6-7: <i>no longer than 300 words</i>	\$500 First Place
Grades 8-9: <i>no longer than 400 words</i>	\$500 First Place
Grades 10-12: <i>no longer than 500 words</i>	\$500 First Place
Honorable Mention(s)	\$500 to be awarded at judges’ discretion
Bonus Prize	\$500 awarded to school of overall best entry

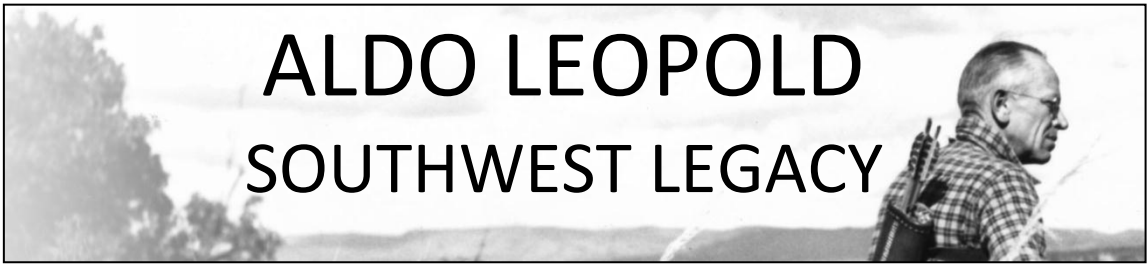
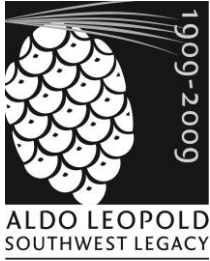
A total of \$2,500 will be awarded. In addition, the first place essay in each category will be honored at an event at Bosque School in Albuquerque, NM, in April.

Entries may be typed or handwritten. The entry must not identify the author, sponsor, or school, so the judging can be anonymous. Entries should be mailed, along with an attached entry form to

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest, Bosque School, 4000 Learning Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120

DEADLINE All entries must be postmarked by **FEBRUARY 22, 2013**.

*Special thanks to the Lumpkin Foundation and Clear Channel for their support of this contest.
With Support from The Albert J. & Mary Jane Black Institute for Environmental Studies at Bosque School.*



ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: Aldo Leopold Writing Contest, Bosque School, 4000 Learning Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120
POSTMARK DEADLINE: **February 22, 2013.**

AUTHOR'S NAME _____

GRADE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

SPONSORING TEACHER'S NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

SPONSORING TEACHER'S PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

To the best of my knowledge the writing is original work produced by the student author.

SPONSORING TEACHER'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____