

2024 Georgia National Fair Fair Bear Writing Competition for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades



Story Theme:

“Fair Bear Visits the Fire Department”

Fair Bear is so excited! He just found out he gets to visit his local fire department and spend a day in the life of a firefighter. This is something Fair Bear has always wanted to do and he just can't wait.

Students are asked to write a story about Fair Bear's day as a firefighter. What are some exciting things they will teach him? Will he learn what a firefighter does on a typical day? Will he help maintain the fire engine and equipment? Wonder if he'll actually get to help fight a fire?

Teachers, this is an excellent Creative Writing exercise that allows the student to write about a day in the life of a firefighter. It's easy to enter and a great opportunity to win prize money for your school.



Postmark Deadline
February 20, 2024

The “Bear” Facts

You are invited to write a story about a very special American black bear who lived from about 1980 to 1993 in middle Georgia near the Georgia National Fairgrounds. The bear was seen off and on by people who lived in the area. None of the people who saw the bear could believe it was really a bear at first! Once, the black bear was seen in a neighborhood subdivision located in a wooded area across the interstate from the Fairgrounds. Another year the bear was seen on a nearby road south of the Fairgrounds, paws on the top wire of a fence, watching the cars go by. In June 1993, the last reported encounter was described by a Perry resident who was jogging through the Fairgrounds just before dark. “I heard tractor-trailer trucks putting on brakes on the interstate and I looked to see why they were slowing down. I saw a large black animal standing by the fence near the west gate entrance to the Fairgrounds. I stopped jogging to get a better look at the animal and realized it was a black bear. The bear was standing with its paws on the fence watching me. Then the bear climbed over the fence and again stood on its back feet to get a better look at me. I didn’t try to get a better look at the bear; I ran!” The bear’s path often crossed I-75 near the Fairgrounds, which is a very busy interstate. “Fair Bear” has become the Georgia National Fair mascot.

Fair Bear has been the subject of the Georgia National Fair writing competition for 4th, 5th and 6th graders since 1994.

2023 Winners:

FOURTH GRADE

First Place

Lauren Brewer
Southwest Laurens Elementary School
Laurens County School System
Teacher: Mrs. Laura Thomas

Second Place

Miller Ward
Tiftarea Academy
Independent School System
Teacher: Mrs. Kaitlyn Evans

Third Place

Leland Hayes
Blessed Sacrament School
Diocese of Savannah
Teacher: Mrs. Clarissa Ashley Taylor

FIFTH GRADE

First Place

Skylar Lester
Bleckley County Elementary School
Bleckley County School System
Teacher: Mrs. Kristen Rodgers

Second Place

Lyra McLain
Thomas County Middle School
Thomas County School System
Teacher: Ms. Rena Crew

Third Place

Layla Gilmore
Stark Elementary School
Butts County School System
Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Green

SIXTH GRADE

First Place

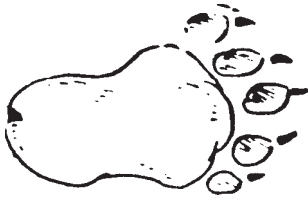
Joy Anna Hellman
Tiftarea Academy
Independent School System
Teacher: Mrs. T.J. Croft

Second Place

Lucy Lane
Burke County Middle School
Burke County School System
Teacher: Mrs. Amy Bruce

Third Place

Ellia McClain
Armuchee Middle School
Floyd County School System
Teacher: Mrs. Ashley Burns



FAIR BEAR CONTEST RULES



Suggested Time Line: *Classroom winners determined by December 8, 2023*
School-wide winners determined by January 21, 2024
System-wide winners determined by February 18, 2024

Questions? call 478-988-6555
or email skusuda@gnfa.com

Entry Deadline: *System winners must be mailed to the Georgia National Fair and postmarked by February 20, 2024.*

This writing competition is open to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools and private schools accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, and must reflect the theme, "Fair Bear Visits the Fire Department". Each entry must be an original story prepared by the student.

All entries become the property of the Georgia National Fair. Winning entries may be used in future publications of the Georgia National Fair.

STUDENTS:

1. Neatly handwrite a **200 to 500 word** story based on the theme – "Fair Bear Visits the Fire Department" on standard ruled notebook paper, using only the front side of each page. **Typed or computer generated work will be disqualified.**
2. Rewrite your essays after your teacher corrects your first efforts and submit the corrected copy for the competition. Remember - spelling/grammar errors will result in point deductions.
3. **Do not** put your name on the front of the pages of your final copy.

TEACHERS:

1. Entries submitted must be original and must have been written by the student under a teacher's supervision and may be completed as part of the regular classroom writing program, not as homework.
2. The name of the school and the student's name must be included on the BACK of each page of the student's paper.
3. A completed official entry form must be attached to each entry.
4. School winners (limit one per grade level) must be mailed to your system office by January 21, 2024. Your school system Curriculum Coordinator/Language Arts Coordinator must sign the entry forms even if there may not have been a system-wide competition.
5. Mail "Total Entries By School" form to Georgia National Fair (Fair Bear Writing Competition, Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069).
6. Entries will not be returned. Please make copies prior to submitting students' work.

SYSTEM COORDINATORS:

1. Receive and judge fourth, fifth and sixth grade entries from all schools in system and choose a first place winner from each grade level.
2. Each school system may submit only one entry for each grade level. Stories will not be accepted directly from individual schools within a system. Each story submitted must have a completed entry form attached.
3. System winners must be mailed to: Fair Bear Writing Competition, Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069, and must be postmarked by February 20, 2024.

JUDGING

1. It is recommended that the procedures listed in the Official Rules Booklet of "The Young Georgia Authors' Exposition and Recognition" (found at: <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-Language-Arts-Program.aspx>) be used as a guide for selecting the system winners in the three levels of the "Fair Bear" Creative Writing Competition.
2. Entries for the final judging will be scored using the guidelines on the following page, and must use the theme - "Fair Bear Visits the Fire Department".
3. Judges for the final phase of the competition will be selected from language arts professionals in Georgia. Each grade level of competition will be judged separately.
4. The judges will not have access to each other's scores while judging nor shall they know the writer's name or school system.
5. The writing entry with the highest score at each grade level will be the first-place winner; next highest score at each grade level will receive second place; and the third highest score at each grade level will receive third place.
6. The first-place winners from the three levels will be read by a panel of judges to determine the Grand Prize Winner. The Grand Prize Winner will receive grand prize awards in addition to the first-place awards.
7. A list of grade level winners will be posted online by April 15, 2024. Winning principals, teachers and students will be notified by mail by April 20, 2024.
8. Awards will be presented during a special ceremony at the 35th annual Georgia National Fair on Saturday, October 5, 2024, where the Grand Prize Winner will be announced.

Fair Bear Competition Judging Guidelines:

Content and Organization (maximum 30 points)
(Response to assigned task (**see rule 1**), clearly established controlling idea, relevant and clearly developed supporting ideas, sense of order, flow of ideas, sense of completeness)

Sentence Formation (maximum 20 points)
(Appropriate end punctuation, complete sentences, appropriate coordination and subordination)

Conventions of Written Language (maximum 20 points)
(appropriate usage and mechanics)

Style (maximum 20 points)
(Effective diction, varied and effective sentence structure, tone consistent with topic and purpose, sense of audience)

Creativity (maximum 10 points)

Total (maximum 100 points)



AWARDS

SCHOOLS

GRAND PRIZE: \$250
 Plaque

Final winners in each grade level will receive:

First Place: \$150
 Certificate

Second Place: \$100
 Certificate

Third Place: \$75
 Certificate

STUDENTS

\$250
Plaque

\$100
Certificate
Commemorative Fair Bear
*Trip for winner and family to 2024 GNF

\$75
Certificate
Commemorative Fair Bear
*Trip for winner and family to 2024 GNF

\$50
Certificate
Commemorative Fair Bear
*Trip for winner and family to 2024 GNF

All entries submitted in compliance with the rules and accepted for final competition will receive a certificate from the Georgia National Fair.

*\$50 in Georgia National Fair Food Coupons, four gate passes & two sheets of advance ride coupons good for 12 to 20 rides.

2024 GEORGIA NATIONAL "FAIR BEAR" Creative Writing Competition Official Entry Form

COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

Unsigned and/or incomplete forms will not be considered for judging.

*ATTACH THIS FORM TO ALL ENTRIES.

*After system judging, mail winners to: Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter,
Fair Bear Competition, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069

DEADLINE - February 20, 2024



Student's Grade Level

___ 4th ___ 5th ___ 6th

ENTRY NO.

(To be completed by GNF)

Student: _____ Age: _____
First Name Last Name

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Parent/Guardian Cell #: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Work #: _____

School (Complete Name): _____ System (Complete Name): _____

Principal (Title, First & Last Name): _____ Superintendent (Title, First & Last Name): _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone: _____ System Contest Coordinator: _____

Coordinator Email: _____

Teacher (Title, First & Last Name): _____ Email: _____

This entry is my own original work and represents my best writing efforts.

Student's Signature

We are familiar with this student's writing. We have read this entry. We are satisfied it is his or her own original idea and work and represents his or her best writing efforts.

Teacher's Signature

System Contest Coordinator's Signature

2024 Georgia National Fair Fair Bear Writing Competition Total Number of Entries By School

In an effort to take a true measure of participation in the competition, we are trying to collect data on the total number of participants. Please fill out this form at the school level and return it to the Georgia National Fair "Fair Bear" Program.

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

4th Grade - Total Number Participants _____

5th Grade - Total Number Participants _____

6th Grade - Total Number Participants _____

Please mail to: Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy., Perry, GA
31069.