



**Germans from Russia Heritage Society**

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An International non-profit tax-exempt organization

# **2018 GRHS Youth Essay Contest**

**Sponsored by**

**GERMANS FROM RUSSIA  
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**GRHS Essay Contest Theme**

**“GERMANY/RUSSIA/AMERICAS...  
GIANT STEPPES TOWARD  
FREEDOM”**

**Contest Rules  
and  
Entry Form**

# Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) Sponsored Annual GRHS Essay Contest!

## ***THEME: Germany/Russia/Americas...Giant Steppes toward Freedom***

An International GRHS Essay Contest, sponsored by the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, will be held to encourage students from around the world to learn about the history and culture of the German-Russians, people who emigrated from Germany into Russia during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today, in the USA, Canada and other countries in the Western Hemisphere, these people have become known as Germans from Russia.

Contest judging will commence after the close of the Contest on 31 March with the winners being announced after the judging has been completed. Winning contestants will be invited to receive their awards at a luncheon held in their honor during the GRHS Convention on 18-22 July 2018 at Pierre, SD.

**ELIGIBILITY:** This GRHS Essay Contest is open to all students attending public, private, parochial, or home schools, and to students attending accredited universities, as full time undergraduate students. **The subject of the paper must be directly related to German Russian history, heritage or culture, and be the contestant's original work.** A contestant does not need to be ethnic German-Russian to enter the contest. Resubmission of previously judged work is not permitted.

### **CATEGORIES:**

International winners will be chosen in each of the following categories:

- I. Middle School...6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- II. High School...9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- III. High School Senior.
- IV. University or College Undergraduate, limited to undergraduate students enrolled full-time in degree-seeking programs.
- **TOPICS:** Essay topics may include any and all aspects of German-Russian heritage including:
  - Cultural Anthropology of the German-Russians.
  - Historical analysis of the reasons for the Diaspora (scatter) of the German-Russians.
  - German-Russian history in the Americas and Canada.
  - German-Russian history in Russia, the Soviet Union, loss of Soviet citizenship, labor camps in the Soviet Union, and labor camps in England and France after World War II .
  - Personal family history, insofar as it relates to German-Russian history and culture.
  - **FORMAT:** Format for the entries may include:
    - Research papers, including persuasive works and/or historical analysis.
    - Creative writing, including short stories, fictional diaries, plays, historical fiction, and descriptive prose. Creative writing endeavors should evidence an exploration and understanding of German Russian history and culture.
    - Genealogical history of a particular family including individual histories of ancestors.
    - Digital Media, including but not limited to PowerPoint, short film, and website design. Please note: all digital media will be judged according to the same criteria as other entries.

### **PAPER REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **Middle School:**

- Entries should be typed, double spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries **must** include an Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.

### High School:

- **Entries must include a Works Cited/Bibliography page.**
- **Research papers must show footnotes or use either MLA or APA citation.**
- Creative writing endeavors are welcomed and should include a bibliography of reference materials evidencing an exploration of German-Russian history.
- Maximum length: 10 pages, not including Works Cited and cover sheets.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries **must** include an Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.

### College/University:

- Creative writing endeavors are welcomed, and must include a bibliography of reference materials evidencing an exploration of German-Russian history.
- Research papers must include either footnotes or citation using MLA or APA. If an alternative citation format is used, that format should be listed at the top of the works cited page.
- Maximum length: 10 pages, not including Works Cited and cover sheets.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries **must** include an Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form.
- Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- Contact the Information Desk at your local public library for material to assist in research on German-Russian history. Many GRHS chapters and genealogical societies have donated or provided books and periodicals for their local libraries. The library genealogy and history sections may contain helpful information.
- Contact members of your family. Elderly members of your family may have useful information and some members of your family may have worked at transcribing your family's history.
- Helpful websites:
  - Germans from Russia Heritage Society [www.grhs.org](http://www.grhs.org).
  - Germans from Russia Heritage Collection <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc>.
  - AHSGR: <http://www.ahsgr.org/>.

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

Entries are judged solely on the quality of research underlying the entry, and the writing style of the entry.

NOTE: a substantial portion of the scoring rubric is based upon how the paper addresses *German-Russian* history and heritage. All entries are submitted anonymously to a panel of judges, who complete a scoring card for each entry. Scores are then totaled to determine contest winners. Criteria for judging include historical accuracy, clarity, and originality of thought, creativity, and style. Winning entries, regardless of format, must show evidence of serious research on German-Russian history and culture.

### AWARDS:

With the winner's authorization, winning essays may be published in the GRHS Heritage Review and/or electronically on the GRHS website. In addition, winners in each category will receive the following:

**Middle School:** First Place: 1<sup>st</sup> place Trophy and \$150; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Runner-Up Trophy and \$100.

**High School:** First Place: 1<sup>st</sup> place Trophy and \$150; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Runner-Up Trophy and \$100.

**High School Senior Scholarship:** Trophy and a \$300 **Gwen Pritzkau** scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring **high school senior** entry. This scholarship is provided by the Heritage Foundation for Germans from Russia.

**University:** Trophy and a \$1000 **Vera Hoff** scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring university entry;

2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive a Runner-Up Trophy and \$250.

## Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form

Entry deadline: Completed essay and entry form must be emailed or postmarked by 31 March 2018.  
Email entries are preferred, but not treated with partiality. Please email or mail to:

Erika Weidemann, Co-Chairman  
GRHS Youth Committee  
2911 Aztec Ct.  
College Station, TX 77845  
grhsessay@gmail.com

The entry form must accompany the essay. Essays and entry forms may be sent by e-mail to grhsessay@gmail.com. If e-mailing a completed essay and entry form, please include a signed copy of the entry form. Entries sent by email are preferred, but not treated with partiality. This contest information and this entry form are also available on the Youth Program pages on the GRHS website at [www.grhs.org](http://www.grhs.org).

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### "Germany, Russia, Americas--Giant Steppes toward Freedom" Official GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form

Contestant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*What motivated you to enter this contest? Did your school or a family member recommend it to you or did you find out about the contest from another source?*

Parent's or Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2018

*(Each entry MUST have a copy of this completed official entry form attached).*

## GRHS Essay Contest Publication Release

We, the GRHS Committee, are excited to share your work with the GRHS members and the world. Therefore, we ask your permission to publish your entry and/or your photo. Please note that entering or winning the GRHS Essay contest does not depend on your willingness to share your work. However, we will be grateful if you grant us permission to do so.

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**Please check one box, and fill out the information below:**

\_\_\_\_\_ As a contestant in the Germans from Russia Heritage Society's GRHS Essay Contest, my parent/guardian and I hereby **give our consent** to GRHS to make public (publish in both print and on the Internet) the information which has been submitted by the undersigned for the GRHS Essay Contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **do not wish** to have my essay or photo published.

Please print, sign and if under 18 years of age include parent/guardian signature.

Contestant's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form along with the GRHS Essay Contest Entry Form to (email is the preferred method of receiving entries):

Erika Weidemann, Co-Chair  
GRHS Youth Committee  
2911 Aztec Ct.  
College Station, TX 77845  
grhsessay@gmail.com