

May 2015 Story Contest Rules

Who Can Enter?

Families that subscribe to the *Nature Friend* magazine. We will have four age categories: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, and 15-17. Please put your name, age, and address on every sheet, or with every e-mailed submission. Manuscripts that are not properly identified will be disqualified. Adults are still invited to submit material; however, we will consider those manuscripts for other issues throughout the year.

What Kind of Story?

We are looking for a true story about you—something you can share with the rest of us so we can enjoy the experience too. The following themes are only idea starters and not story titles.

- An unusual nature experience
- Ways I have interacted with nature
- A lesson I learned from nature
- Any other nature-related theme

Type or handwrite your story on ONE side of an 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Remember to include your name, age, and address. Try to keep your story to 400 words or less. However, some stories just naturally need more words to tell them well. If your story is one of those, send it anyway. Remember, your story needs a title. Stories will not be returned, so please keep a copy for yourself.

Mail to: *Nature Friend* Story Time 2015, 4253 Woodcock Lane, Dayton, VA 22821. You may also e-mail your story to storytime@naturefriendmagazine.com.

Your story should be postmarked by February 15, 2015.

We will be choosing three stories from each age category. In addition to a cash award to all twelve winners, Nature's Workshop Plus will be giving gift certificates for products in their store. Stories not chosen for the Story Contest will automatically be considered for the Readers' Issue.

June 2015 Readers' Issue

Our Readers' Issue is filled from cover to cover with submissions by readers. We will be looking for your art and photos, your stories, articles, puzzles, and experiments. Nature's Workshop Plus will be sponsoring this issue with gift certificates that may be redeemed with products from their store. They have an exciting array of products that nature lovers enjoy. You may visit their store online at www.workshopplus.com, or call 1-888-393-5663 to order their catalog. You may also e-mail them at mail@workshopplus.com to request a catalog.

The gift certificates will be \$50 to the photographer or artist whose work we select for the front cover, and \$25 for the back cover. \$15 certificates will go to the ones whose work

we select for the "Invisibles" activity and the "You Can Draw" lesson. "Invisibles" can be art or a photograph. Photographers, look at the "Invisibles" activity in August 2014 issue to see how you can turn one of your favorite photographs into an "Invisibles" activity. We will also award \$15 certificates for the submissions we choose for "The Birders' Trail," "Wondernose," the "Learning by Doing" activity, and feature stories.

In addition to the gift certificates, cash awards will be given to these winners.

Readers' Issue Rules:

1. Families who are active subscribers to *Nature Friend* magazine may submit material. Students of schools that actively receive *Nature Friend* magazine also qualify. Each person may submit as many entries as he wishes.

2. We are about wild nature such as animals, birds, plants, astronomy, marine life, etc. Wild animals in zoos or domestic animals such as dogs, cats, or farm animals are not our main focus, but may occasionally be used.

3. Your name, address, and age should appear on every page, and along edge of all art and photos. When possible, we appreciate a phone number too. Labeling is very important so we do not lose track of your work among the hundreds of submissions we receive.

4. We accept prints and digital photographs. Digital submissions should include a color printout of the photographs for easy review. Please provide a caption for each photo, identifying the bird, flower, insect, etc., and telling about your getting the photo.

5. The work must be your own. Parents may help, but do not trace from a book or someone else's work. If several children worked on the project, please include the names and ages of all who helped.

6. If you want your submission returned, you must include a stamped, addressed envelope. Make sure the envelope is large enough and has adequate postage. Please include one return envelope for every child's entry even if several entries are submitted to us in one envelope. We need to separate multiple submissions when we categorize them and cannot keep multiple entries with one return envelope.

7. Artwork and photographs should be mailed flat with cardboard stiffener. Do not fold.

8. Deadline for submissions is February 15, 2015. Send materials to Readers' Issue 2015, 4253 Woodcock Lane, Dayton, VA 22821. E-mailed submissions should be sent to readersissue@naturefriendmagazine.com and say "Story, photo, etc.—Readers' Issue 2015" in the subject line.

We look forward to seeing your submissions. Keep them coming!