



Thoroughbred Charities of America Youth Essay Contest

Eligibility

1. Submissions must be written by someone 18 years old or younger (with minimal help from anyone else), who is connected or impacted by a Thoroughbred Charities of America 2015 grantee organization (i.e. a volunteer, adopter, supporter, recipient of services, etc).
2. A grantee organization is defined as an organization that submitted a grant application to TCA in 2015 and received a grant.

General Rules

1. One entry per contestant.
2. No more than five (5) essays may be submitted in support of a grantee organization. Submissions will be accepted on a time received basis. The first five (5) entries received will be eligible for the contest.
3. Essays must contain a minimum of **300 words and no more than 600 words** (if there is a title, the title is included in the word count).
4. If an essay is submitted that does not adhere to the required word count it will be returned to the author for adjustment prior to the deadline. If the essay is re-submitted and still does not comply with the word count it will not be accepted. Essays submitted on the day of the deadline that do not comply with the word count will not be returned to the author and will not be judged.
5. Essays must be a personal essay describing how the selected 2015 TCA grantee affected your life.
6. Essays must be submitted in a typed Word or PDF double-spaced document via e-mail with the accompanying contest submission form to ecrady@tca.org by 5:00 p.m. EDT, Friday, August 28, 2015.
7. By entering, Entrant grants to TCA and its affiliates a nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to edit, publish, promote, and republish at any time in the future and otherwise use Entrant's submitted essay, along with Entrant's name, likeness, statements, biographical information, and any other information provided by Entrant (excluding contact information), in any and all media for possible editorial, promotional, or advertising purposes, without further permission, notice, or compensation (except where prohibited by law).
8. TCA is not responsible for lost or late entries or for electronic-transmission errors.

Scoring and Judging

Scoring procedures of the contest will be identical. Entries will be judged by select TCA board members, TCA staff and members of *The Blood-Horse* editorial staff without the name of the organization disclosed until after a winner is selected.

1. Compelling and passionate argument: 60 points
2. Grammar, punctuation, spelling: 20 points
3. Vocabulary and style (phrasing and continuity): 10 points
4. Neatness: 5 points
5. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points

Awards and Acknowledgement

1. Winner will be notified by phone and/or e-mail after September 11, 2015.
2. Winning essay will be awarded a \$1,000 check to the TCA grantee charity indicated on the contest submission form. The check will be mailed within two weeks of the winning essay selection.
3. Winning essay will be published in a September or October 2015 issue of *The Blood-Horse* magazine (and online).
4. Winning essay will be posted on the tca.org website as well as featured in an upcoming e-newsletter.