

WRITE OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR

go outside. be inspired. write. submit.

MARCH 19TH - MAY 3RD, 2024

WRITE OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR IS
A FREE WRITING COMPETITION
CO-SPONSORED BY THE
MISSOURI BOTANICAL
GARDEN AND
GATEWAY WRITING PROJECT
THAT INVITES YOU TO WRITE
ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES
OUTSIDE, WITH NATURE, AND
AS STEWARDS OF THE
ENVIRONMENT.

guidelines

Writers may submit stories, essays, or poems that address:

- A special place in nature and why it is meaningful
- Describes an author's specific experience in nature
- A piece that reflects your experience with the changing climate
- A piece that reflects conservation, stewardship, or sustainability

**Stories and essays should be 1,000 words or less
& poetry should be 3 - 30 lines**

Entries will be judged on content (how well the theme has been addressed), voice (word choice and style), and merits of composition (grammar and organization).

prizes

One winner from each category will be awarded a prize pack:
Grades: **K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, & a Teacher Writer.**

All winners will receive a family membership to the Missouri Botanical Garden as well as an Emerging Writer prize pack.

In addition, GWP will provide a Summer Camp Scholarship, (\$225 value) for the winner of the 6th - 8th grade category.

Winners will have their work displayed at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Green Living Festival on June 1st, 2024.

submission

Access our form for
details & submissions
Open through May 3rd, 2024

bit.ly/woyd2024



write outdoors

Writing outdoors taps into the value of nature in support of learning while also building on the importance of place-based writing and education. Research suggests that “experiences of nature boost academic learning, personal development, ... environmental stewardship, health, and well-being. Young writers, in connecting to their own place and community, gain an understanding of who they are in their place, a better knowledge of the local history, culture, and geography, while learning to apply writing concepts ... to an awareness of interdependence and interconnection in place and in writing.

National Writing Project, writeout.nwp.org



Join Missouri Botanical Garden for the Annual Green Living Festival on Saturday, June 1, 2024!

Attendees will join experts at the Garden for a full day of active learning, exploring and engaging in ideas for taking action in their everyday life. Robust offerings will focus on the many ways that plants and the air, water, soil, and energy of our environment sustain our homes, health, and planet. Event features include:

- Exhibitors and Vendors highlighting earth-friendly initiatives -- Workshops including lively DIY demos and education sessions -- Tours revealing the Garden's sustainability elements -- Family-Friendly Activities that will inspire the youngest of learners --

Included in Garden admission. St. Louis City and County Residents enjoy free Garden admission Saturday mornings before noon.

green living



MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

mobot.org/glf

teacher writers

Writing Makes Thinking Visible.

With this in mind, Gateway Writing Project believes that all teachers are teachers of writing and those who teach should also do--teachers who write are better teachers of writing.

When teachers write beside their students, shifts begin to happen in the classroom. Teacher writers raise the level of importance in the act of writing itself while bringing value to the tasks being given to students. Being a teacher writer strengthens the classroom community of writers, connects teachers more deeply to students, builds empathy alongside further understanding of students, and creates a chance to have some fun... especially when it's outdoors!

