

**Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.**  
**17TH Annual High School (grades 9-12) Writing Competition 2009-10**

The Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. (VOWA) announces its 17th Annual High School (grades 9-12) Writing Competition for 2009-10. The goal of the competition is to reward high school students for excellence in communicating their personal experiences in the outdoors.

The competition is open to all Virginia students in grades 9 through 12. Home-schooled students are welcome to enter. The theme of this year's competition is based on a memorable outdoor experience. Any experience by the writer with hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, hiking, birding, or other outdoor activity should be the predominant subject matter. No athletic event or competition is an eligible subject matter.

Submissions can be submitted in a Microsoft Word or text file, since the three top winners will be published on the VOWA web site, and may be in other publications or web sites. E-mail submissions are encouraged. Write the article in WORD format and then attach it to an e-mail. The submissions can be made between now and the **January 31, 2010**, deadline.

Awards will consist of gift certificates and gear from outdoor sports businesses and Supporting Members of VOWA. Over \$500 in prizes will be awarded. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the VOWA's Annual Meeting with the date, time and place to be announced. The winner's parents (or teacher/mentor/friend) will be guests of VOWA for the presentation event. The winning entries will be read by the students at the awards program during the annual meeting.

**General Competition Guidelines for 2009-10:**

1. Open to all Virginia students in grades 9--12, including those students home schooled.
2. Nonfiction only, with the theme "A Memorable Outdoor Experience." Writers will create their own title for the article--other than using the words of the theme listed above. Students name, grade/school, and home town must be printed in three lines at the top right hand corner on each page of the entry.
3. Length: a **firm** 500-750 words which must be typed, double- spaced.
4. Electronic submissions are encouraged; send as a Microsoft Word or plain text attachment to the competition coordinator listed below.
5. Include the attached submission form--age, grade, and school or specify if home schooled.
6. By submitting the article to the competition, permission is granted by the parent(s) and student for VOWA to post or publish the article in publications or web sites as deemed appropriate by the VOWA Competition judges with compensation being limited to writer credit to the student author in order to reward and recognize writing excellence, and to promote the competition throughout the year.
7. Complete mailing address and evening telephone number; include e-mail address, if available, for correspondence purposes only.
8. Submissions not meeting the competition guidelines and criteria will be disqualified.
9. Submission can be made from now to the deadline of **January 31, 2010**.
10. Send submissions to:

David Coffman, VOWA High School Writing Competition  
1905 Hunters Lodge Road  
Troy, VA 22974  
Tel: 434-589-9535 *Email:* david.coffman@dgif.virginia.gov

**Required Submission Form is on the next page.**

**Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.**  
**17TH Annual High School (grades 9-12) Writing Competition 2009-10**  
**Submission Form**

**Submission is due via regular postal mail, or e-mail (preferred) between now and January 31, 2010.**

Complete the following information and submit with your article to confirm eligibility and to facilitate direct contact to notify competition award winners and for future opportunities to post exceptional articles in various media publications. Only students making winning submissions are notified by email or telephone. Award winner names will be posted on the VOWA web site after the annual meeting awards presentation on March 17, 2010. Please review and adhere to all competition guidelines as posted on the VOWA web site: [www.vowa.org](http://www.vowa.org)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE: ZIP:

EMAIL (OPTIONAL):

PHONE: (area code) number

SCHOOL NAME (note if home schooled):

ADDRESS:

GRADE:

AGE:

Check female  male

**Teacher's name:**

Telephone: (area code) number

e-mail:

**Parent or Guardian**, please sign or print your name confirming approval for your child to enter the VOWA High School (grades 9-12) Writing Competition 2009-10 as stated below:

Our/my child has our/my permission to submit an article for judging in the VOWA High School (grades 9-12) Writing Competition 2009-10 in accordance with the rules posted on the VOWA web site. Members of VOWA are granted permission to contact our/my child via telephone, email or regular postal mail regarding their competition submission and for notification of award status and attending the awards presentation during the VOWA Annual Meeting March 17, 2010, at the Double Tree Hotel, Route 29 North, Charlottesville, VA.. By submitting the article to the competition we grant permission for VOWA to post or publish the article in publications or web sites as deemed appropriate by the VOWA Competition judges with compensation being limited to writer credit to the student author in order to reward and recognize writing excellence, and to promote the competition throughout the year.

Parent:

Date:

Contact information if different from student information above:

TITLE of my entry (your own title on the entry):

Word count:

**Send this completed form along with article by January 31, 2010 to:**

David Coffman, VOWA High School Writing Competition

1905 Hunters Lodge Road

Troy, VA 22974

Tel: 434-589-9535

*Preferred Email:* [david.coffman@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:david.coffman@dgif.virginia.gov)