

THE 2018 LCE WRITING AND ART CHALLENGE
FOR LAKOTA YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2018



**MNI
WICHONI**
• WATER IS LIFE •

Respecting water is an important part of Lakota culture. In South Dakota and North Dakota, we face threats of water contamination from uranium mining, pipeline construction, and fracking. Over the course of the past year, Mní Wičhóni (Water is Life) has become the slogan for the movement against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline led by the Oceti Sakowin (the Great N/D/Lakota Nation). Water is essential to our health and wellness and to the health and wellness of our Grandmother Earth.

This year, we invite youth from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to write and create art in response to “Mní Wičhóni,” water protection, and the movement for clean water for the Lakota Nation and the world.



LEARN MORE AT WWW.LAKOTACHILDREN.ORG

ABOUT THE 5TH ANNUAL LCE WRITING AND ART CHALLENGE

MNÍ WIČHÓNI

THIS YEAR, WE INVITE YOUTH FROM THE PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION TO WRITE AND CREATE ART IN RESPONSE TO “MNÍ WIČHÓNI,” WATER PROTECTION, AND THE MOVEMENT FOR CLEAN WATER FOR THE LAKOTA NATION AND THE WORLD.

- What does the phrase, “Mní Wičhóni (Water is Life)” mean to you?
- Are you a pipeline fighter? What does this movement mean to you?
- What does it mean to be a water protector?
- How does the phrase Mní Wičhóni inspire you?
- What do you do to protect the water? What do you do to protect the Earth?

Make sure the entry conveys why you think it is important to protect water and the earth. Share your story!

THE WRITING CHALLENGE

FORMAT: Write a poem or a spoken word in response to this year’s theme. Spoken word submissions are all acceptable and can be written in anyone’s voice, get creative. Video submissions are permitted, but not required.

The following **three age categories** will be judged separately and anonymously:

- **Middle School:** Grades 5 through 8; 700 word maximum - GRAND PRIZE: \$250
- **High School:** Grades 9 through 12; 750 word maximum - GRAND PRIZE: \$350
- **Young Adult:** Ages 17-24; 750 word maximum - GRAND PRIZE: \$350

Schools of the GRAND PRIZE WINNERS of the Writing Challenge will receive a \$1,000 grant for materials for the school – only schools on the Pine Ridge Reservation are eligible for this award.

THE ART CHALLENGE

FORMAT: Create an original drawing, painting or multimedia piece of art in response to this year’s theme — which conveys a message either through symbolism or words.

Digital copies may be submitted by email. Entries may be drawn in colored pencil, pencil, pen, or markers. Materials used to create the entry are less important than drawing itself and its message.

The following **two age categories** will be judged separately and anonymously:

- **Young Artists:** Ages 11-15 - GRAND PRIZE: \$250
- **Experienced Artists:** Ages 16-24 - GRAND PRIZE: \$350

OFFICIAL RULES All entries must be submitted electronically by 11:59 PM on **FEBRUARY 1, 2018** through the ONLINE ENTRY FORM on our website or by emailing: INFO@LAKOTACHILDREN.ORG. Entrants must be residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation and able to prove their residency to the satisfaction of the judges. Young Adults and Experienced Artists who reside on the Pine Ridge Reservation and attend school full-time off the reservation *are eligible* to enter. Young Adults and Experienced Artists who reside on the Pine Ridge Reservation but are not enrolled in school *are eligible* and encouraged to apply. **For complete rules visit: WWW.LAKOTACHILDREN.ORG**