



Teachers Guide

Powered by the Sun

Creative Writing Contest for Grades K-5

Sponsored by:



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Welcome to the Celebrate NJ! “Powered by the Sun” Creative Writing Contest!

*This overview is intended to provide answers to most of the questions that Teachers may have about the program. **If you have others, please contact us.***



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Questions?

Contact: Karen Hatcher, Executive Director
Celebrate NJ!
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Khatcher@celebratenj.org
732-339-8178

Celebrate NJ! Vision

Celebrate NJ! seeks to inspire the minds and hearts of the young people of New Jersey by educating, informing, and engaging them in a new conversation about our home state.

With a focus on:

- *the positive aspects of living, working and learning available in New Jersey;*
- *our rich history and the critical role we played in our nation's freedom;*
- *our cultural diversity as one of the most diverse states in the US;*
- *and the important discoveries and inventions birthed here,*

Celebrate NJ! helps create an important connection to our significant past as we build a future of which we may feel proud.



Powered by the Sun Program Objectives

Program Purpose: The purpose of the Celebrate NJ! Powered by the Sun Creative Writing Program is to educate, inspire and celebrate New Jersey's children.

Intended results:

1. That participating students further develop literacy, creative writing, and presentation skills as a result of their participation in the program.
2. That participating students learn and understand the benefits of solar power to their school, community, state and world.
2. That teachers and students find the resources of the program to be a valuable addition to the classroom.
3. That parents of participating students are inspired by their child's involvement in the program.
4. That participating students begin to see themselves as future stewards of and leaders in their schools and communities.
5. That community members, organizations and businesses enthusiastically support New Jersey's children.
6. That teachers and students are fully acknowledged and celebrated for their involvement in the program.

Content of the Powered by the Sun Creative Writing Program



A Creative Writing Contest for K-5 Students!

**Students use their creativity to showcase the benefits of Solar Power.
Stories... Poems... Songs... Skits... Plays... more...**

The program features:

- Step by Step Instructions for Students
- Resources and Links to helpful web sites for learning
- A Parents page with a list of Activities to Reinforce Learning
- Community Events to celebrate the students' efforts
- Showcasing of the Best of the Best entries

The Celebrate NJ! Powered by the Sun Creative Writing Program engages students in the activities of learning about the many ways Solar Power benefits the people who live here in New Jersey. They also improve computer skills through online research, word processing and keyboarding. As an added benefit, students may demonstrate their oral presentation skills both in the classroom and at awards events by sharing what they learned about New Jersey with other students, parents and community members.

The Program also fosters a connection to the rich, diverse place our kids call home. It helps develop self-esteem as they learn how people like them played important roles in the founding of our nation, invented life-changing products, and became global leaders. It inspires responsibility for their choices, as they take on the role of future stewards and leaders of our wonderful Garden State.

This program is independently funded and offered at no-fee to public and private schools alike. It is the newest addition to the family of Celebrate NJ classroom programs. To learn more, visit www.celebratenj.org.

Program Registration



Registration is Free and Easy!

Register your students by using the online registration form found on www.CelebrateNJ.org, Powered by the Sun program page. That's all you need to do to get started.

The program resources are available online free for use at any time by all teachers and their students at www.celebratenj.org. However, if you want your students to be eligible to participate in the writing contest and awards program that follows, you must complete the registration process. Once you've registered we'll send out a Welcome Kit which includes a poster for your classroom.

Teacher Communication and Support

Teachers are encouraged to send questions by email wherever possible to Karen Hatcher at khatcher@celebratenj.org. If the matter is more urgent, please call our office at 732-339-8178.

IMPORTANT!! All regular correspondence will be sent to teachers via email, therefore it is important that the email address provided is one that is not protected by school firewalls, blocking devices, etc. Our registration form will ask for an alternate email address that we may use in the case of blocked email. Celebrate NJ! promises to restrict its use of email addresses to organizational communication only.

Please Note: We normally send out monthly updates to all registered teachers. **If you don't receive email from us, please contact us as a firewall may be blocking these important messages.**



Classroom Activities

Teachers oversee the activities of the program in their classrooms. We encourage teachers to fully use the resources provided in the program, however you and your students are not limited to these. We encourage students to use the school and local libraries to further their research.

The resources provided were selected to align with K-5 curriculum as it relates to science and language arts. Teachers are encouraged to review these resources and provide guidance to students as to their use.

You may determine that a group or class project is the best option for your students. This is wonderful and encouraged! We will accept individual, group, and class projects in this contest.

Submission of Entries

Submissions may be entered using the online entry form which provides for attaching documents, photos, videos and URL links. You may submit an unlimited number of entries on behalf of your students. Please use one online entry form for each entry. We will allow you to stipulate the entry as from an individual, team or class upon submission.

Judging and Selection of “Best of the Best” Entries

An independent panel of volunteer judges will make the selections. In each grade, selections will be made in the category of individual student, team or group, and class projects. The judges decision is final in accordance with the rules of the contest.



Award Ceremonies

Publicly celebrating those students whose work was selected is an important and rewarding aspect of the program. Not only are students honored for academic achievement, a select group will also be given an opportunity to demonstrate presentation and public speaking skills before hundreds of people in a public venue. Awards will be presented as part of the Garden State Green Fest on March 23, 2012.

Program Timeline

Online Registration begins	Monday, December 5, 2011
Online Registration ends	Friday, February 24, 2012
Entry Submission begins	Monday, January 9, 2012
Entry Submission ends	Friday, March 2, 2012
Selections Announced	Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Awards Celebration Event	March 23, 2012

How to Get Started

1. **Once you've reviewed the Contest Rules and Resources on the website** and determined that the deadlines fit within your teaching plan...
3. Register your students using the link provided on the Powered by the Sun page of the School Program section of www.CelebrateNJ.com.
4. Introduce the resources to your students and include solar power into your science and language arts lessons.
5. Guide their activities and use the subject to reinforce your teaching goals.

Look for your monthly teacher update by email. If you don't hear from us, please reach out to us (khatcher@celebratenj.org). We may have run into your school firewall!

Enjoy the Program!