

For Immediate Release
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Press may contact:
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Phone: 770-387-2833

**Booth Western Art Museum Announces
2008-2009 Annual Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest**

Cartersville, Ga. – The Booth Western Art Museum is pleased to announce the 2008-2009 Annual Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest for students in grades five through twelve. Entries are being accepted now through Feb. 16, 2009. The contest is being held in conjunction with the 6th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering sponsored by the Booth Western Art Museum.

The contest is open for students throughout the state of Georgia in the following grade levels: five and six, seven and eight, and nine through twelve. Students will select from topics relative to the theme *The Spirit of the American West* and submit their entries to a panel of judges. The top twelve finalists in each grade category will compete at the Booth Western Art Museum on Sunday, March 15, 2009 as part of the Cowboy Gathering. Cash prizes at each grade level will be awarded as follows: First Place \$500, Second Place \$300 and Third Place \$200.

“Cowboy poetry is an art form that brings out the creative side of students. It enables them to hone skills of reading, research, writing, self-expression and memorization,” said Doc Stovall, entertainment and sponsorship manager at the Booth Western Art Museum. “It improves their confidence, poise and public speaking skills.”

In addition to the contest, the Booth Museum will offer free cowboy poetry workshops conducted by working cowboy poets that will cover several topics including the basic structure of poems, rhyme schemes and patterns, and presentation of the poetry.

Entry applications are available online at www.boothmuseum.org. For more information on the 2008-2009 Annual Cowboy Poetry Contest, contact Doc Stovall at 770-387-1265 or DocS@boothmuseum.org.

About the Booth Western Art Museum:

The Booth Western Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is an 80,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia, where guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also features a Presidential Gallery, a Civil War art gallery, and Sagebrush Ranch – a children’s interactive gallery featuring hands-on art activities and areas for role playing, storytelling and reading, all presented with a Western flair. Visitors to the Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown Cartersville setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques and nationally featured restaurants, all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. For more information about the Booth Western Art Museum, call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest 2008 - 2009

Sponsored by the Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum is happy to announce our Annual Cowboy Poetry Contest for students in Georgia. The contest is for students in grades five through twelve and is held in conjunction with the 6th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering sponsored by the Booth Western Art Museum.

The contest is open to students in 3 age groups: grades five and six, grades seven and eight and grades nine through twelve. The top twelve finalists in each age group will compete at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, GA on Sunday, March 15, 2009 as a part of the 6th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering. Students will select from topics relative to the theme *The Spirit of the American West* and will submit their entries to a panel of judges for evaluation.

As cowboy poetry is a new area for most students in Georgia, the Booth Museum will offer free workshops on cowboy poetry as time and scheduling permit. The workshops cover several topics including the basic structure of poems, rhyme schemes and patterns, and presentation of the poetry. These workshops will be conducted by working cowboy poets who will come to your classroom or 4-H club meeting and outline some of the basics of cowboy poetry. For more information contact Doc Stovall at the Booth Western Art Museum.

First, second and third place **cash prizes** will be awarded at the final competition on March 15. Scoring will be based on the following areas: adherence to contest rules, material organization, vocabulary and style, and presentation of the poem. Applications and a complete set of rules are attached.

Entries are due by February 25, 2009. *If you have any questions or would like to arrange a workshop for your students, please see the contact information listed below.*

Contact Information:

Doc Stovall
Entertainment & Sponsorship Manager
Booth Western Art Museum
PO Box 3070
501 Museum Drive
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

770-387-1265
DocS@boothmuseum.org



Application for the 2008 - 2009 Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest Sponsored by the Booth Western Art Museum

Theme: The Spirit of the American West

Topics:

1. Landscapes and Vistas
2. Cowboys and Cattle Drives
3. The Price of Change
4. Horses
5. Native American Culture

Section 1 General Rules

1. The Booth Western Art Museum is the official sponsor of the Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest.
2. The contest is open to students in grades 5 through 12.
3. To be eligible to enter the contest, contestants must compose an **original** cowboy poem and submit it according to contest rules.
4. The Booth Western Art Museum reserves the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any poem entered in the contest without payment to the author.

Section 2 Contest Rules

1. Each contestant must complete an entry form and be given a copy of the rules. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.
2. Participants can only submit one entry in the contest.
3. Participants must write their poem about one of the five official topics.
4. There is no pre-determined word limit or length for the poem but the poet should be able to recite it between two and four minutes.
5. Each entry should have a title page containing: the title of the poem, the selected topic, author's name, address and phone number.
6. Poems must be type written and double-spaced with one extra space between each new verse.
7. Each page of the poem must be numbered starting with the first page of the poem, not the title page. Center the numbers at the bottom of each page.
8. No references can be made in the poem that would identify the contestant.
9. To submit the poem, staple the application, title page and poem together in the upper left-hand corner. Please do not use a report cover.
10. **Entries must be delivered to Doc Stovall at the Booth Western Art Museum by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 or postmarked February 25, to be eligible for judging.**



Section 3 Workshops and Judging

1. The contest and related poetry writing workshops will be coordinated by Doc Stovall, at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville.
2. Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified judges who are not employed by the Museum.
3. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the contest coordinator. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and first page of the poem. The title page will then be detached and retained by the contest coordinator. The judges will then be given the poem bearing only the assigned number.
4. Judging will be based on a point system. An average of points awarded by each judge will determine the selection of the top 12 contestants from each age group, who will be asked to come to the Booth Museum on Sunday, **March 15, 2009** to recite their poems.
5. First, second and third place winners will be selected at the Finals and the following cash awards will be awarded in each age group: First place - \$500, Second place - \$300, Third place - \$200

Section 4 Scoring of Contest

1. Material Organization (logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 45 points
2. Vocabulary and Style (phrasing and continuity): 45 points
3. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 10 points
4. Semi-final and final round presentation (reciting the poem): 100 points

For more information or to submit an entry contact:

Doc Stovall
Entertainment & Sponsorship Manager
Booth Western Art Museum
PO Box 3070
501 Museum Drive
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
770-387-1265
DocS@boothmuseum.org



Application for the 2008 - 2009 Cowboy Poetry Contest

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____

School / 4-H Club _____ Grade _____

School / 4-H Club Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Teacher / Sponsor _____