

# National Forest Products Week Essay Contest

Texas forests provide us with many important things. They help keep our air and water clean, provide beautiful places to play and relax, are home to wildlife, and provide over 5000 products for people!

National Forest Products Week began in 1960 when Congress passed a resolution to "reemphasize to each citizen in the United States the importance and heritage of our vast forest resources which are inseparably tied to our present and future." To celebrate National Forest Products Week (4<sup>th</sup> full week in October), the Texas Forestry Association is offering a statewide essay contest.

**Who may enter?** ALL STUDENTS IN TEXAS MAY APPLY.

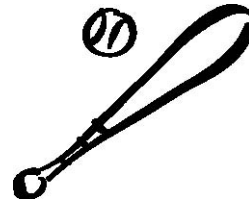
Grade level Essay length

9th-12 graders 350 words or less

6th-8th graders 300 words or less

3rd-5th graders 250 words or less

K-2nd graders May use any media and address only statement #1



**What must the essay include?** Each essay shall complete the following statements:

1. "Forest products touch my life..."

2. "Trees are a renewable resource, because..."

3. "If I was in charge..." (What would the student do to have healthy forests for generations to come - forests that can provide beauty, habitat, clean air and water, products and MORE?)

**What will the judges look for in the winning essays?**

- The essay was written by the student based on his/her ideas.
- The student recognizes that:
  - she/he uses forest products every day
  - these products come from trees
  - trees are a renewable resource; more can be planted
  - forests have many values
- Spelling, grammar and neatness count!
- Individual creativity is encouraged.



➔ **Gloom and doom scenarios are discouraged.** It's a common myth that we are running out of trees, but in fact there are more acres of forestland in the U.S. today than at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

