

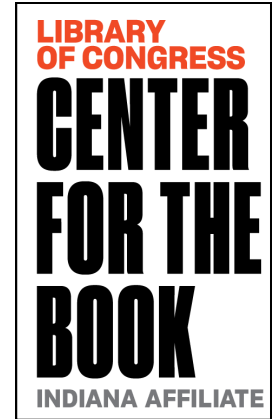


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Learning IN Indiana!

First Place - 2024

Louella C.
 Mooresville, Indiana
 Morgan County
 Mooresville Christian Academy



Learning IN Indiana

Indiana is way more than a state. It is a community that offers many different places and many different ways to learn. But some of my favorites are exploring nature, traveling around the world at my local library, and remembering at the veterans memorial.

In nature, I learn about animals, plants, trees, flowers, ecosystems and animal habitats. Indiana has many little things in nature you don't always notice, but when you do, they make you smile — like when you go for a walk in the woods and find wild blackberries, or a cardinal's nest. I can wade in the creek with the minnows, go butterfly hunting, and I can search for beaver dams and bald eagle nests. Nature is a place where you can have fun and learn.

I also love my local library. You can go around the world sitting in your house. You can ride a boat down the Amazon River, hike on Mt. Everest, ride a camel in the Sahara Desert and visit the pyramids in Egypt. I love learning in the library. It is so fun.

At our local veterans memorial, I learn about veterans and about war. I'm always sad when I go there, but then I'm proud. The soldiers knew they might die, but they still went to war and laid down their lives for us. I can tell you that took a lot of courage.

These three places offer me my favorite ways to learn, but Indiana has way more places to learn. But being a Hoosier means more than just learning in Indiana, it means growing up in a community that loves, cares and helps people and places around it.



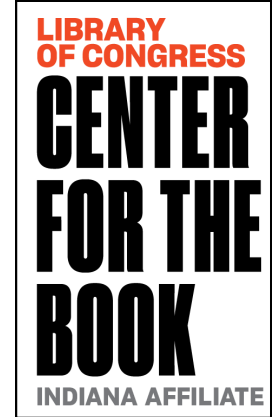


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Learning IN Indiana!

Second Place - 2024

Sophia B.
Fishers, Indiana
Hamilton County
Homeschooled



Indiana's Learning Opportunity for All!

I love the different learning possibilities that Indiana has to offer! The museums, the classes, and the variety of teachers are all perfect for someone like me.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is one of my very favorite places to learn. They change their exhibits a lot to always stay original. I love the brilliant ways they get information into people's brains, like the amazing Dinosphere where the dinosaurs seem to come alive! The best part about the museum is that you get to decide how the exhibits interact with you!

Youth Inspirations Theatre teaches me about singing, dancing, and acting. Stepping into a character's shoes helps me to see the world through another's eyes and that is a really important thing to learn in life. When the class all sing together and I hear the bellow of all of our voices combined, it's ... mesmerizing! It also feels great when my friends and I randomly start dancing. And I positively treasure learning to be an actor!

Roots and Wings Co-op education program offers an amazing, once-a-week learning experience for homeschoolers. The sessions are taught by the parents and cover a wide variety of subjects. I feel ecstatic when I learn about something I didn't even know I wanted to, like D&D, kickball, artists and more. I love being with all the different minds and ages. I adore the happy energy I get from being there. The other kids are so welcoming and make me feel my ideas matter.

In conclusion, I love learning in Indiana because I get to learn when, where, and how I want. So whether you like learning at home or outside, with a group or by yourself, Greek mythology or theater, there is a space for you in Indiana!



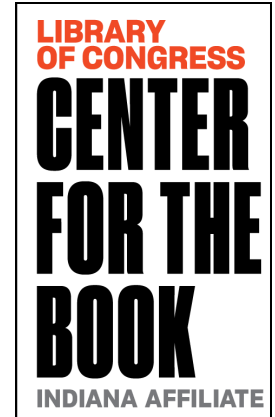


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Learning IN Indiana!

Third Place - 2024

Aria W.
Evansville, Indiana
Vanderburgh County
Helmsburg Elementary School



Lessons Outside of the Classroom

If you think that a classroom is the only place where education happens, I would challenge you to come experience learning in Indiana. Here, learning is easy because it can be done anywhere. Even in my quieter area of Indiana, I am constantly taught by a diverse group of people who have their own unique lessons to share.

My neighborhood friends and I have learned lots of new things together. We have taught each other our favorite games, created summer lemonade stands, and shared our hobbies. Every once in a while, a new friend moves in and we get to learn about what they like and add it in to our time together.

When I go into the city, I get to learn from my coaches and teammates. My basketball coach knows what I cannot do yet, but encourages me to work hard and push myself. My gymnastics teacher trains me to try new things each and every class. My teammates show me that working together makes achieving goals possible.

I also have made quite a few friends who live in the country. We have so much fun every time we get together. They have taught me how to fish, and shown me what life is like on the farm. It's fun to see how the Amish lifestyle is both different and similar to how my family lives.

In Indiana, learning comes from a variety of forms, and there is something for everyone. It doesn't matter who you are, or what you like, you are sure to love learning in Indiana!



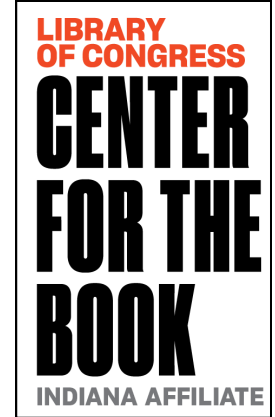


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Learning IN Indiana!

Fourth Place - 2024

Ruby L.
Morgantown, Indiana
Brown County
Helmsburg Elementary School



Spelunking in Indiana

Drip. Drip. Drip. There are a lot of places to Learn IN Indiana. I love to go to caves because I learn so much! Three of my favorite caves are Marengo Cave, Indiana Caverns, and just recently I went to Blue Spring Caverns. I loved to see all of the blind fish, crayfish and even frogs! I love to hear the drip, drip, drip!

Marengo Cave is my absolute favorite cave! I loved to see the little waterfall. I put my hand under the waterfall and felt the cool water drip into it. The guide turned the lights off! It was pitch black, so I could not see anything! I learned that when stalagmites and stalactites touch each other it's called a marriage.

I also loved Indiana Caverns. It is one of the prettiest caves in Indiana. They have the prettiest boat ride you can imagine because the water was a beautiful blue. If you look down in the water you can see crayfish with no eyes! They even had ice age bones! I learned so much about caves!

A few days ago I went to Blue Spring Caverns. The whole cave experience was on a boat ride! You could see tiny fish, crayfish and even frogs. I learned a whole lot! I could smell the murky cave. A tiny drip hit my head. This is called a cave kiss. I could hear the echo in the cave! They had a lot of cool formations there.

In conclusion, I proved that there is a lot to Learn IN Indiana. I enjoyed visiting Indiana Caverns, Marengo Cave, and Blue Spring Caverns. I still have a lot to learn, but learning is fun so I'm going to keep learning IN Indiana!

