



# 4th Grade Student Essay Competition

## Explore Indiana!

**It's great to explore in Indiana. Write an essay about exploring Indiana and you could be honored at a Statehood Day celebration!**

The **Indiana Center for the Book** is hosting an essay competition to commemorate Indiana's 209th Statehood Day! This year's theme is *Explore Indiana*. Winners of the essay contest will be honored on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at the Indiana State Museum and the Indiana Statehouse. Questions? Email [icb@library.in.gov](mailto:icb@library.in.gov).

**Three winners will be selected. EACH WINNER will receive an Indiana529 Deposit of \$529.00 made possible by the Indiana Education Savings Authority!**

Entry forms are available here:

<http://www.in.gov/library/statehood.htm>

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*Any Indiana school is welcome to attend Statehood day celebrations, regardless of whether or not they participate in the contest or have a winner. Registration is required to attend events. Contact the Indiana Statehouse or the Indiana State Museum for details.*

## — ESSAY CONTEST RULES AND DEADLINES —

The competition is open to any Indiana 4th grade public, private, or homeschooled student, in the 2025-2026 school year. A panel of judges from the Indiana Statehouse, Indiana State Museum, Indiana State Library, and the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center will choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Winners must submit a permission release form.

Essays must range from 100 to 300 words, handwritten or typed.

Essays must be submitted with an entry form. Individual entries should use the **2025 Individual Entry form**. Class sets should use the **2025 Group Entry Form**. In addition, the following information should be included on each essay for class sets: student name, teacher name, and school name. For individual entries the following information should be included on each essay: student name, school if applicable, and home town.

Essays should be well organized and reflective of the theme: *Explore Indiana*. Judges are looking forward to seeing your students' interpretation of the theme. Exploring can encompass all kinds of things like exploring Indiana's different counties, expansive roadways, beautiful landscapes, rich history, or even our exciting sports teams. We hope this theme builds awareness and appreciation for the Hoosier state. This contest supports the following Indiana Educational Standards: **4.W.1, 4.W.3., 4.W.4, 4.W.6.1, 4.W.6.2.**

**Entries may be mailed OR emailed.**

Mail your entries to: Indiana Center for the Book  
Indiana State Library  
140 N. Senate Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**OR** Email your entries as an attachment to [icb@library.in.gov](mailto:icb@library.in.gov).

Mailed essays must be postmarked by **Monday, October 20, 2025.**  
Emailed entries must be received by **Monday, October 20, 2025.**

**Winners will be invited to read their essays at Statehood Day events at either the Indiana Statehouse or the Indiana State Museum!**



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