



Boat People SOS, Inc.

Ủy Ban Cứu Người Vượt Biển

"Meeting Urgent Needs Today, Empowering Communities for Tomorrow"



October 19, 2009

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Boat People SOS' (BPSOS) "A Time to Write" Story Contest! BPSOS is proud to partner with Mayor Bill White in Houston's First Annual Citizenship Week, and hopes that students just like you will join us in celebrating the diversity and growth of our city.

This packet provides you with all the information you will need to help you write your story about what it means to be a citizen in the city of Houston. Please read over the prompt and rules before you begin, and fill out the applicant information page once you are ready to submit your story. **Please keep in mind that all stories must be submitted via email or sent to our office by November 13, 2009 to be considered.**

If you have any questions regarding the story contest or about BPSOS, please visit our website at www.bpsos.org or call our office at 281-530-6888. You may also email us at amy.nguyen@bpsos.org or phale.le@bpsos.org.

Thank you and good luck!

Warmest regards,

Amy Nguyen
Outreach Coordinator

Cassady Phale Le
Outreach Coordinator

Boat People SOS "A Time to Write" Story Contest Information and Story Prompt

Are you a story teller? Do you have a story you want to share about your experience as a citizen of Houston? BPSOS wants to hear it!

This year, BPSOS is sponsoring "A Time to Write" Story Contest and is asking all students in Houston to participate! **In 500 words or less, tell us what Houston means to you by reflecting on this quote:**

Quote: *"The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are."* -Joseph Campbell

To be considered, it takes three steps:

- 1) Make sure you're a student in the Greater Houston area
- 2) Fill out the student application
- 3) **Submit your story no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, November 13, 2009.**

We will be looking for stories that not only share your experiences as a Houstonian, but also include your thoughts on what being a citizen of this city means, and what diversity is to you. Stories should be creative, thought-out and personal - remember, this story is about you.

Three finalists will be chosen from each level - elementary, middle/junior high and high schools for a total of nine finalists:

Elementary School Level: 4th and 5th grades

Middle and Junior High School Level: 6th, 7th and 8th grades

High School Level: 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades

We will **only** accept applications from students attending a school located in the city of Houston.

In addition, all participants, finalists, and their families, will be invited to our Story Reading and Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 20, 2009 in the Southwest Houston area from 7-9 PM. The ceremony will mark the end of Houston's First Citizenship Week and will honor the story contest's nine finalists.

If you have any questions about the rules or the story prompt, please visit our website at www.bpsos.org or call us at 281-530-6888. You may also email Amy at amy.nguyen@bpsos.org.

So are you ready? It's time to write!

**Boat People SOS "A Time to Write" Story Contest
Student Application**

Please be sure to fill out the information below and submit this page along with your story. We will only use this information for contact purposes should you be a finalist for the contest.

The deadline for story submissions is Friday, November 13, 2009 at 5:00 PM. Please email your story to amy.nguyen@bpsos.org or drop off your story to our office at 11360 Bellaire Blvd, Suite 910, Houston, TX 77072.

Incomplete applications will not be considered

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Best number to contact: _____

Email: _____

Name of School: _____

Grade Level: _____

I certify that I have written this story, and will give BPSOS permission to publish it on its website and/or newspaper should I be considered a finalist. I understand that if I am selected as a finalist, I will be present at the Awards Ceremony on Friday, November 20, 2009 to share my story.

Your name: _____

Signature: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____