

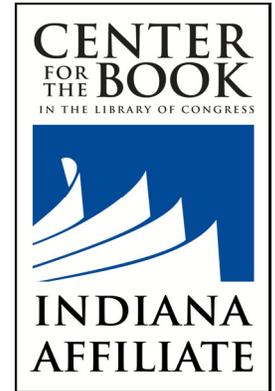


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Today is Tomorrow's History

First Place - 2019

Connor Lakin
Van Rensselaer Elementary School
Rensselaer, Indiana



Today is Tomorrow's History

Have you ever wondered what makes history so special? Is it learning about people you never knew or a place you wished you could travel to? Or maybe it's the idea that history can preserve the very best of who we are. History is how we grow and Indiana is a huge part of my history.

Living in Indiana wasn't always home to me. It felt strange moving to a new state. It has become special to me because my dad grew up in the same town we live in now. I love seeing the house my dad helped build. The same house where my grandma and grandpa still live. We mow the same grass and play by the same river and dig in the same corn fields. But time always changes things.

This small town in Indiana has grown with lots of people and is not so little anymore. My dad doesn't like a lot of people. My momma always talks to people and tells me, "always find the good in others." I love the people here. We are all like one big family. That's what's so special to me. It's the people that shape our history. It's not what we did, but what we WILL do. I want other kids my age to see that too. Together we can preserve the good if we see the good in each other.

I'm still making my own history. I've planted seeds, painted my name on walls, dug holes and buried Legos. All the things that make being me, me. I'll add to my collection of rocks and take pictures of my cat. We'll go fishing and camping and find lost arrowheads. And what my dad's yesterday taught me today, will become my footprints tomorrow. A new history to be preserved.



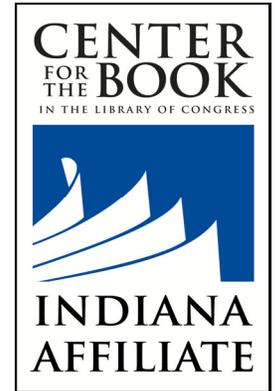


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Today is Tomorrow's History

Second Place - 2019

Asher Abner
Morgan Elementary
Palmyra, Indiana



Today is Tomorrow's History

In 1816, when Indiana was born, I am sure there were boys riding in wagons as they passed by the new capitol building in Corydon and wondering what was to come. Indiana had been part of the wild frontier, and then became a territory. A nine-year old would have been busy working on the family farm milking the cow, feeding the chickens and helping in the garden. If he was really lucky, he may have gone hunting or trapping with his father.

More than 200 years later, I live near the first state capitol--Corydon. I ride by the historic buildings every week. Just like that young boy from 1816, I can look at the buildings and wonder. Now, that young boy's daily chores are considered things of the past. I still get to live on a small farm, but there are large farms all around me growing pumpkins, popcorn and raising milk cows. No longer is the food raised just for my family. Now it is exported around the world. So instead of milking one cow like that little boy of the past, farmers use robots to milk 10,000 cows. They use big combines to harvest popcorn that goes around the world to movie theatres even in Japan. I am sure the boys of 1816 would have never imagined a robot milking their cow or a machine harvesting their crops.

I can only imagine what Indiana will be like in 200 more years. While I think we are doing amazing things like having the fastest launched roller coaster at Holiday World, "the world's first theme park," that will seem like such an old fashion activity for the nine-year old boys of the future Indiana.

Just imagine, instead of a rollercoaster they may ride on drones.



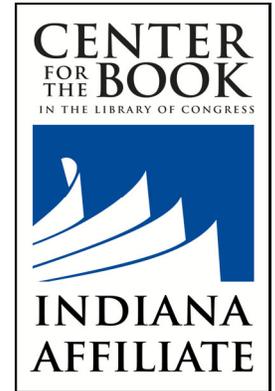


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Today is Tomorrow's History

Third Place - 2019

Hannah Miller
Homeschooled
Greenwood, Indiana



My Hoosier History

If there was a history book written about my life while living in Indiana, I would include some of my favorite family traditions. Enjoying nature, being able to homeschool, and helping my fellow Hoosiers are a few things that make living in Indiana today so special.

My family enjoys nature by mountain biking in Southwestway Park and birding and hiking at Glens Valley Nature Park. My dad introduced me to mountain biking and now I love it. This year in homeschool, we did a unit study on birds and bird watching has become a hobby of mine. After school, my sisters and I also like to go outside and collect rocks, build forts out of sticks, and have picnics.

Being able to homeschool offers more hands on learning and lasting memories to share with my family. I'll never forget watching a baby calf be born or learning about the history of Indiana at the Indiana State Museum. I have made many friends at our homeschool co-op while learning about interesting topics such as geography, bugs and so much more.

My church supports an organization called Churches in Mission in Mooresville, Indiana. We save up food and donate it to less fortunate neighbors. I feel happy to know we are making a difference. I hope that 'Hoosiers helping Hoosiers' will be a tradition that continues on.

I hope that my family traditions won't only be in Indiana's history books but will be practiced by future generations to come. I'm only eight so I don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I do know that I want to come home from work every night knowing I helped someone that day. That's the best history that I can leave behind.



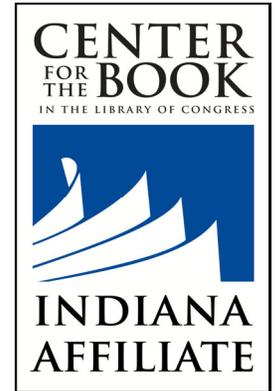


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Today is Tomorrow's History

Fourth Place - 2019

Isabella Rose Leurck
St. Mary's Catholic Community School
Crown Point, Indiana



Today Is Tomorrow's History

When I think about Indiana, the first thoughts that cross my mind are our state's "Midwest" values. Indiana is known for its faith, families and traditional morals - values that are found throughout the Midwest and that are part of our communities.

The residents of Indiana love God and the USA. Hoosiers are humble, honest, hard-working and polite. We care for our communities and faith-based leaders, our teachers, our military forces and our civic authorities. Tourists think Hoosiers are charming people too! Let's not forget that Abraham Lincoln lived in Indiana; that the first theme park ever built was in Santa Claus, Indiana; and that Indiana is the home of the famous "Indianapolis 500".

It is special to live in a state that has become so diverse. My father is of Irish/Finnish-American descent. My mother was born and raised in the Republic of Panama; and she is of black-Hispanic and French descent. For years, my biggest example of diversity was my family. Today, I am proud to attend St. Mary's Catholic Community School, in the city of Crown Point, where I have friends of different races (and even different countries), whose families have come to Indiana hoping to have a better future. Through the years, these families, like my own, have developed a sense of belonging and work hard to contribute to our state's causes.

We Hoosiers of today have been shaped by the leaders who came before us. At school, we are learning about Indiana's history, which is very important to me. I hope that future fourth graders will be able to learn what I am learning and experience Indiana's rich history, because such an experience will allow them to continue to embrace and include people of all backgrounds and nationalities, as well as continue rich Hoosier traditions.

