

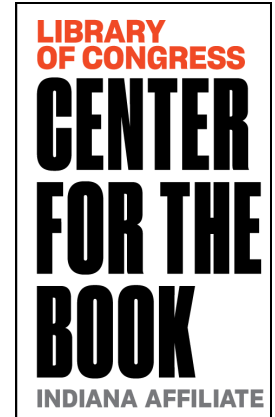


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Living IN Indiana!

First Place - 2022

Yuto H.
Newburgh, Indiana
Warrick County
John H. Castle Elementary School



I Love Being a Hoosier

There are so many reasons that Indiana is a great place to live. Where I live there are many farms and lots of open green spaces. The seasons are beautiful and I enjoy the wonderful nature. Although it is a beautiful place, the best thing about Indiana is the people. Indiana people are very kind and friendly to new people.

Indiana people give a warm welcome to people moving from different countries. I moved to Indiana from Japan last year for my father's job. He was transferred here. I was really worried before move to Indiana because I saw the Japanese news reported Asian hate crimes in the U.S. due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, none of my worries came true.

I am enjoying my life in Indiana. I love my school and friends. When I got here my English was limited. Indiana people were helpful and patient. It made me feel welcome and accepted. This really cheered me up to have such kind people. Also, I started playing on a junior baseball team last season. Everybody is nice and friendly to a beginner. When I strike out, my teammates and audience tell me "Good try!" and "Great swing!" That is very encouraging.

Indiana people are generous. Last year, I joined the Cub Scouts. Everyone is friendly and I enjoy the outside activities in beautiful surroundings. When we sell popcorn to raise money for the Cub Scouts, many people buy popcorn and donate to our Scouts. I am thankful for the kindness of Indiana people.

As an Asian and a new resident of Indiana state, I really enjoy living here. Indiana people warmly accept me. I really recommend to anyone to move to Indiana. Indiana is the best place to live. I love being a Hoosier!



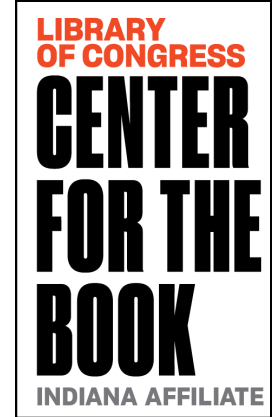


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Living IN Indiana!

Second Place - 2022

Nora J.
Greenwood, Indiana
Johnson County
Sugar Grove Elementary School



Indiana's Foods

Whether you are in your home or in a different state, you have to appreciate the food of Indiana. On any night corn, pork tenderloin, or sugar cream pie can sound so good. You can go to the State Fair and get salty and buttery corn, the Indiana famous pork tenderloin sandwich, or the Hoosier sugar cream pie for dessert.

There are 5.27 million acres of corn fields in Indiana. I love looking at my great grandpa's cornfields. He says he loves working with them. The fields are a beautiful sea of green stalks. The buttery, juicy, and salty corn on the cob is the most delicious side dish for a Fourth of July dinner.

The pork tenderloin sandwich is one of Indiana's most famous dishes. The beautifully breaded sandwich is perfect for a night with your family. I love watching my family make the tenderloin just right with the perfect outside. My grandma makes the best pork tenderloin ever. It is so much better when you make it yourself. You can get lettuce, onions, and ketchup on your sandwich as well.

Lastly, the official state pie of Indiana is the sugar cream pie. I wanted to know what it tasted like, so my grandma and I made it together. It is so buttery and rich. The filling is more of a pudding, but the taste is delicious. This pie creates nostalgia for every person that eats it. I will definitely have it again.

These are some of the best foods of Indiana. If you haven't tried buttery corn, the crispy pork tenderloin, or rich and buttery sugar cream pie, you should try them. They might become some of your favorites too.



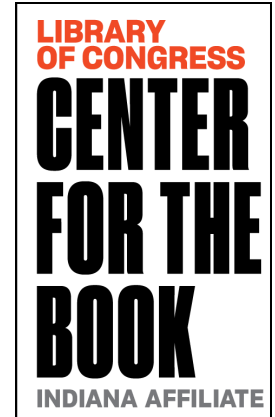


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Living IN Indiana!

Third Place - 2022

Antonio Z.
Indianapolis, Indiana
Marion County
Sunnyside Elementary School



The Four Seasons of My Move to Indiana

I remember being four years old in the airplane getting ready to land. My family and I were moving from Miami, Florida. I looked out and saw a beautiful blue sky welcoming me to the state of Indiana. It was summer when we arrived. Aside from missing the beach, summer in the Midwest didn't feel much different than Florida.

After a few weeks, I noticed the leaves changed to beautiful colors that seemed like a painting. They slowly fell off the trees and made a satisfying crunching sound when I stepped on them. I loved that it was sunny but breezy at the same time. I'll never forget the first time I saw a stack of leaves and jumped in it. This was my first autumn. It's still my favorite season!

Months later it started snowing. I was shocked! When I first looked out the window, I thought there were clouds by my window. "Mom, what's that?" I asked.

"It's snowing!" my mom said. I had never heard of snow before. I rushed outside but my mom stopped me, and forced me to put on a coat, hat and gloves. This was new to me since I'd never experienced winter. I suited up and played. I made a snowman with my sister that was taller than me! We ended our adventure with a snowball fight. As I made memories of my first winter, I remember thinking, "Indiana is a great place."

Five years later, I'm grateful that my mom brought my us to Indiana. Through the four seasons in Indiana, I get to make memories and stay excited because- as they say in Indiana, you never know what you will get with the seasons and the weather!



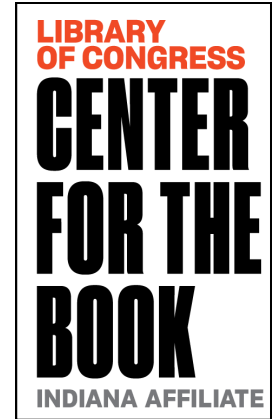


4th Grade Student Essay Competition

Living IN Indiana!

Fourth Place - 2022

Caleb C.
Bloomington, Indiana
Monroe County
Childs Elementary School



Living In Indiana

Indiana is a beautiful place to call home. Indiana has not always been my home. I have lived in three different states; Illinois, New York, and Georgia, but Indiana is my favorite. It has so much to offer. The seasons are beautiful, and the community made me feel welcomed, plus there are so many cool places right in Indiana.

Every season in Indiana has something to offer. During fall Indiana turns from a nice green to a beautiful orange, perfect for hikes in the woods. Then when winter comes everything becomes a peaceful white ... well not so peaceful on the sledding hill. In springtime the creeks come alive. Careful! Crayfish and snakes could be under that rock! In the summer Indiana is so hot, but that is okay because Lake Monroe is perfect for a picnic and swim.

I really like Indiana's community because how welcoming it made me feel. I moved here at start of the COVID-19 pandemic. I had no friends, except for my dog. Now just three years later, I am a part Cub Scout Pack 164, a member of Boys & Girls Club, and I make friends everywhere I go. Childs Elementary School welcomed me and made me feel like I belonged.

Indiana has lots of cool places. Exploring Indiana University campus is my favorite thing to do. The conservatory has so many plants to admire. Caverns, museums, and zoos are all a short drive from my Bloomington nest.

These are just some of the reasons I love Indiana. Nowhere makes me feel as happy as Indiana. The seasons are beautiful and there are many places to explore in Indiana. I love calling Indiana my home.

