

Volunteer USA Foundation and the Pearson Foundation's

Best Event Idea Essay Contest – Read for the Record



About the Contest:

In an effort to raise awareness of the importance of early literacy, as well as personal service, Volunteer USA Foundation is partnering with the Pearson Foundation in offering an essay contest. The contest, based on characters or images of the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, gives elementary grade level teachers and Teen Trendsetter™ mentors the opportunity to submit their best event idea for the national Read for the Record campaign.

The prize for winning entries is a classroom set of the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, to be given to a local Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten class designated by the winner. Winning teachers, or their designee (i.e. one of their students), and Teen Trendsetter mentor and mentee will also participate in the national Read for the Record campaign by reading the book to the recipients of the classroom set on October 8, 2009.

For more information regarding contest rules and prizes, please email Carolyn Vega-Melendez at Contest@VolunteerUSAFund.org or call 850.559.2208.

Contest Rules:

- Only teachers from grades 1 - 5 and Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors™ from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington D.C. are eligible to participate.
- Winning teachers, or a designee (i.e. one of their students), MUST participate in the national Read for the Record campaign on October 8, 2009 by reading to a Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten class(es).
- Winning Teen Trendsetters™ MUST participate in the national Read for the Record campaign on October 8, 2009 by assisting their mentee read to Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten class(es).
- Only one entry per student or Teen Trendsetter will be accepted.

- Submission must be 500 words or less.
- Entries are to be based on the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Using the characters and/or images from the story, submit your best event idea.
- Each submission must include
 - Title
 - Teacher/Teen Trendsetter's name
 - If a Teen Trendsetter, Advisor's name
 - State
 - School district
 - School name

Entries that do not include ALL of this information will automatically be disqualified.

- **Deadline:** All entries must be submitted electronically no later than **5:00 p.m. EST, September 17, 2009** to Contest@VolunteerUSAFund.org.
- Winning entries will be announced on our website and by press release no later than September 30, 2009. The prize for 10 winning entries is a set of 100 books which will be given to local Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten classes designated by the winner.

Contest Prizes

- Winning Teachers will receive a set of 100 books donated by the Pearson Foundation which will be given to local Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten classes designated by you, or a designee (i.e. one of your students) that you, or a designee, will read to on October 8, 2009 for the national Read for the Record event.
- Winning Teen Trendsetters will receive a set of 100 books, donated by the Pearson Foundation, for his or her mentee to give to the Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten classes that the mentee is reading to on October 8, 2009 for the national Read for the Record event.

About Read for the Record

In partnership with the Pearson Foundation, Jumpstart's Read for the Record is an international campaign to bring preschool children together with valued grownups in their lives to read the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world. To learn more about the Read for the Record campaign, please visit www.ReadForTheRecord.org or www.PearsonFoundation.org.

About Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors™

Teen Trendsetters™ is a prestigious youth mentoring program managed by Volunteer USA Foundation that pairs high school students with second and third-graders, who struggle with reading, for one-on-one weekly sessions. The goal is to bring the joy of reading to all students, improving the basic reading skills of the younger students and nurturing the volunteer spirit among youth leaders. To learn more about the Teen Trendsetter program, please visit www.TeenTrendsetters.org or www.VolunteerUSAFoundation.org.