

The North Star Chapter of Minnesota
affiliated with the
Germans from Russia Heritage Society
and the
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

October 2007

Dear Members and Friends of The North Star Chapter of Minnesota,

The North Star Chapter of Minnesota will see a first in the year 2008. The newly organized Youth Committee is launching a Chapter Youth Essay Contest for middle, high school and university or college undergraduate students.

We are depending on your help in launching this endeavor by sharing the attached contest rules and entry form with anyone you know who is interested in Germans from Russia and meets the entry categories. Please note that the entrant does not need to be a German from Russia but must write on the **2008 Theme: "Germany/Russia/Americas...Giant Steppes Toward Freedom."**

After North Star entries have been judged and winners selected, all entries will be forwarded to the Germans from Russia Historical Society (GRHS) International Committee for additional judging and awards even if not selected to receive a North Star Chapter award. Tentative plans are to announce and present the North Star awards at the spring 2008 banquet.

This contest promotes the goals of the North Star Chapter and GRHS by encouraging young people to learn about our unique culture. Genealogy, the study of family history, is rapidly growing in our society. Early exposure to family heritage and history studies of the Germans from Russia hopefully encourages lifelong interest.

Thank you in advance for your help in making your contacts ASAP so the writers have as much time as possible to work on their essays. Additional applications can be found at the North Star web page <http://www.northstarchapter.org> or contact me at gwensc@peoplepc.com or phone 651-426-0117.

I am pleased and excited to be part of this new committee's effort to involve our youth and hope you share our excitement.

Sincerely,



Gwen Schock Cowherd
Youth Committee Chair

2008 Youth Essay Contest

Sponsored by the

**The North Star Chapter of
Minnesota**

affiliated with the

Germans from Russia Heritage Society

and the

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

Youth Essay Contest Theme

**GERMANY/RUSSIA/AMERICAS...
GIANT STEPPES TOWARD
FREEDOM**

Contest Rules

And

Entry Form

The North Star Chapter of Minnesota
affiliated with the
Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)
and the
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR)
Youth Essay Contest!

THEME: Germany/Russia/Americas...Giant Steppes toward Freedom

A Youth Essay Contest sponsored by The North Star Chapter of Minnesota and affiliated with the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) and the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) international organizations, promotes the goals of the society by encouraging young people to learn about the history and culture of the Germans from Russia. Writing an essay may interest a student in family genealogical research.

Chapter contest winners will receive a monetary award plus a certificate. Honorable mentions will receive a certificate. The Chapter reserves the right to not award any monetary winners if the essays do not follow contest guidelines and/or lack detail and clarity of chosen topic. Entries from The North Star Chapter of Minnesota contest will be included in the International GRHS Youth Essay Contest for judging, and winners will be announced at the 2008 GRHS Convention, which will be held in Casper, WY on 30 July—3 Aug. 2008. The North Star Chapter of Minnesota winners will be announced and special guests at the annual 2008 Chapter spring banquet.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to all students in public, private, parochial or home schools and accredited universities, subject to the categories below. The subject of the paper must be related to the German Russian heritage and must be the contestant's original work; however, the student does not need to be of German Russian heritage to enter the contest. Previous contestants are encouraged to enter each year; however, resubmission of previously judged work is not permitted.

CATEGORIES: International winners will be chosen in each of the following categories:

- I. Middle School - 6th through 8th grade.
- II. High School - 9th through 12th grade.
- III. University or College Undergraduate.

TOPICS: Topics may include any and all aspects of German Russian heritage, including:

- Cultural anthropology of the German Russians.
- Historical analysis of the reasons for the diaspora of the German Russians.
- German Russian history in the Americas.
- German Russian history in Russia.
- Personal family history.

FORMAT: Format for the paper may include:

- Creative writing, including short stories, fictional diaries, plays, historical fiction, and descriptive prose (example: prose concerning visits with family members or travel to places with historical significance to the family).
- Genealogical history of a particular family, including individual histories of ancestors.
- Research papers, including argumentative and/or historical analysis.
- PowerPoint — Entries using the PowerPoint computer program including maps, photos and family trees are encouraged. Basic rules for paper entries must be followed.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

Middle School:

- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries must include an Official North Star Chapter of Minnesota & GRHS Youth Essay Contest Entry Form.
- **Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.**

High School:

- Entries should include a Works Cited/Bibliography page.
- Creative writing endeavors are welcomed, and should include a bibliography of reference materials evidencing an exploration of German Russian history.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries must include an Official North Star Chapter of Minnesota & GRHS Youth Essay Contest Entry Form.
- **Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.**

University/College:

- Entries should include a Works Cited/Bibliography page.
- Creative writing endeavors are welcomed, and should include a bibliography of reference materials evidencing an exploration of German Russian history.
- All works other than creative works should use one of the academically accepted, standard forms of citation. Although the American Sociological Association guidelines are preferred, other standard citation systems are also acceptable.
- If an alternative citation format is used, that format should be listed at the top of the works cited page.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of paper only.
- Entries must include an Official North Star Chapter of Minnesota & GRHS Youth Essay Contest Entry Form.
- **Contestant's name should be on the entry form only and should not appear on the essay.**

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- Contact a North Star Chapter member for access to the North Star library and/or contact the Information Desk at your local public library for material to assist in family research. Many GRHS chapters and genealogical societies have donated or provided books and periodicals to local libraries. The genealogy section of libraries, which may be located in the family research section, may contain helpful information.
- Contact members of your family. Elderly members of your family may have useful information and some members of your family may have worked at transcribing your family's history.
- Helpful websites:
 - <http://www.grhs.com> Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS)
 - <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc> and www.prairiepublic.org/features/GFR/gfrguide.pdf.
Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
 - <http://www.ahsgr.org> American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR)

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Only the essay's text is judged; contestants will not be required to read or orally present their essay. Judges are impartial and will not know who wrote the essays. Winning entries will be judged on originality, creativity, clarity, style, historical accuracy and evidence of a serious research effort.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

March 1, 2008

THE NORTH STAR CHAPTER OF MINNESOTA AWARDS

With winner's authorization, essays may be published in The North Star Chapter of Minnesota newsletter and/or the website at <http://www.northstarchapter.org>. Non-placing entries will receive an honorable mention award.

University Undergraduate

1st Place: \$150 & certificate

Runner-up: \$100 & certificate

High School

1st Place: \$150 & certificate

Runner-up: \$100 & certificate

Middle School

1st Place: \$100 & certificate

Runner-up \$75 & certificate

GRHS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

With winner's authorization, essays may be published in the *GRHS Heritage Review* and/or electronically on the GRHS website at: www.grhs.com. In addition, winners in each category will receive the following:

Middle School

First Place: \$150 & trophy

Second Place: \$100 & trophy

High School

First Place: \$150 & trophy

Second Place: \$100 & trophy

High School Senior Scholarship

A trophy and a \$250 Gwen Pritzkau Scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring high school senior through the University of his/her choice.

University Undergraduate

A trophy and a \$750 scholarship will be awarded to the highest scoring university undergraduate through the University of his/her choice.

**THE NORTH STAR CHAPTER OF MINNESOTA & GRHS YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

Deadline: Completed essay and entry form must be postmarked by 01 March 2008.

Please mail to:

**Gwen Schock Cowherd, Chair
The North Star Chapter of Minnesota Youth Committee
3741 Sun Terrace Circle
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-1848**

The entry form must accompany the essay. Essays and entry forms may also be sent by e-mail to gwensc@peoplepc.com. If e-mailing a completed essay and entry form, please send a signed copy of the entry form to the above address. Additional contest information and entry forms can be found on the GRHS website at <http://www.grhs.com>.

“Germany, Russia, Americas--Giant Steppes toward Freedom”

Contestant's Name: _____ *Date:* _____

Age: _____ *Date of Birth:* _____ *Grade:* _____

Home Address: _____

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

Telephone No.: _____ *E-mail Address:* _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Phone #: _____ *E-mail Address:* _____

What motivated you to enter this contest? Did your school or a family member recommend it to you, or did you find out about the contest from another source?

Parent's or Legal Guardian's name: _____

Contestant's Signature: _____ *Date:* _____ 2008

(Each entry MUST have a copy of this completed official entry form attached.)

The North Star Chapter of Minnesota & GRHS Youth Essay Contest Publication Release

We, The North Star Chapter of Minnesota Youth Committee & the GRHS Youth Committee, are excited to share your work with North Star members, GRHS members and the world. Therefore, we ask your permission to publish your entry and/or your photo. Please note that entering or winning does not depend on your willingness to share your work. However, we will be grateful if you grant us permission to do so.

Please check one box, and fill out the information below:

_____ As a contestant in the The North Star Chapter of Minnesota and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society's Youth Essay Contest, my parent/guardian, and I hereby give our consent to The North Star Chapter of Minnesota and GRHS to make public (publish the information which has been submitted by the undersigned for the Youth Essay Contest).

_____ I do not wish to have my essay or photo published.

Please print, sign, and if under 18 years of age, include parent/guardian signature.

Contestant's name (print) _____

Contestant's signature _____ Date _____

E-mail address _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____

Parent/guardian name (print) _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Your North Star Chapter of Minnesota entry will also be submitted to the GRHS Youth Committee Chair for entry in the International GRHS Essay Contest. Please submit this form along with the Official Entry Form to:

Gwen Schock Cowherd, Essay Contest Chair
The North Star Chapter of Minnesota
3741 Sun Terrace Circle
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-1848