



Gratitude Along the Tanglefoot

Writing and Art Competition and Virtual Showcase
November 4-18, 2020

About the Event

School-age students (Pre-K through 12th grade) in New Albany and Pontotoc County are invited to participate in an autumn gratitude festival in the weeks leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. This event is organized by M Partner, an initiative of the University of Mississippi that works to improve quality of life in partner communities. New Albany was an M Partner community from 2018-2020, and Ecu and Pontotoc are M Partner communities for the next phase of the program, which will run from 2020-2022.

The *Gratitude Along the Tanglefoot* writing and art competition will ask local students to answer the question *what are you thankful for?* through various mediums. Their writing and art projects will then be judged by a panel of community leaders and M Partner representatives. Selected student work will be uploaded to an online gallery on the McLean Institute Facebook page (@McLeanUM), and selected pieces will be displayed in the business district of each partner community. This festival encourages community participation and collaboration at a safe distance during the COVID-19 pandemic, while simultaneously engaging local students' creativity.

Prompts and Submission Guidelines

Using their preferred medium, students can express their response to the question: *What are you thankful for?* The contest will be announced Wednesday, November 4th and submissions will be accepted until Wednesday, November 18th at 5:00 P.M. Students are limited to one submission: writing or art. Participants are encouraged to register and submit their work online at mclean.olemiss.edu/gratitude.

Participants who wish for their work to be displayed in the windows of local businesses must also drop off their work at one of the following locations: Ecu Town Hall (176 Main Street, Ecu, MS 38841), New Albany Main Street Association (135 East Bankhead Street, New Albany, MS 38652), or Pontotoc City Hall (116 North Main Street, Pontotoc, MS 38863). All participants must complete and enclose a registration form along with their art or writing submission. See the reverse of this page for the entry form to submit at the drop-off locations.

- **Art Category:** In a sketch, painting, collage, or other art medium, answer the question: *What are you thankful for?*
- **Writing Category:** In a fiction or nonfiction piece, answer the question: *What are you thankful for?* Fiction and nonfiction pieces must be no longer than 1,000 words, 12-point font, double spaced. (Handwritten responses will be accepted for younger students.)

Age Groups and Categories

Participants will be judged by age group and category. The age groups and categories are as follows:

Age Groups
PreK – 2nd Grade
3rd – 5th Grade
6th – 9th Grade
9th – 12th Grade

Art Category
Sketch/Drawing/Painting
Mixed Media
Photo/Video

Writing Category
Fiction
Non-fiction



Entry Form

Please complete the information below if you would like your child's work to be displayed in a local business.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Age Group (circle one): PreK-2nd Grade 3rd-5th Grade 6th-8th Grade 9th-12th Grade

What school does your child attend? _____

Category: **Art** – *select one medium:* Sketch/Drawing/Painting Mixed Media Photo/Video

OR

Writing – *select the genre:* Fiction Non-fiction

For valuable consideration, I do hereby authorize The University of Mississippi, its assignees, agents, employees, designees, and those acting pursuant to its authority ("UM") to:

- a. Record my participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph or any other medium ("Recordings").
- b. Use my name, likeness, voice and biographical material in connection with these recordings.
- c. Exhibit, copy, reproduce, perform, display or distribute such Recordings (and to create derivative works from them) in whole or in part without restrictions or limitation in any format or medium for any purpose which The University of Mississippi, and those acting pursuant to its authority, deem appropriate.
- d. I release UM from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of such Recordings including any claims for defamation, invasion of privacy, rights of publicity, or copyright.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Partners

This event is sponsored by the City of Pontotoc, New Albany Main Street Association, Pontotoc Chamber, and the Town of Ecu.

About M Partner

M Partner is a community engagement effort that seeks to improve quality of life in Mississippi communities. M Partner offers a framework for community and university representatives to advance priority projects in partner cities across the state and underpins institutional efforts to promote healthy and vibrant communities. The inaugural M Partner communities are Charleston (Tallahatchie County), Lexington (Holmes County), and New Albany (Union County). The next phase of M Partner will continue with the Town of Ecu and the City of Pontotoc.

For questions or assistance submitting materials, please email mpartner@olemiss.edu or call (662) 915-2052.