

2026 ~ 23rd Annual

Voices of Children Contest AND Kinship Caregivers Contest



What are the Contests?

Voices of Children

Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives

is a contest for **children** in Washington State, who are being raised (now or in the past) by a relative – other than their parents.

Voices of Kinship Caregivers

is a contest for **Kinship caregivers** in Washington State, who are raising (now or in the past) a relative child not their own.

The contest honors both, the more than 57,000 children, and the more than 47,000 grandparent & relatives in Washington State who are raising them.

How Do You Enter the Contest?

Children: Write a poem, short essay, or draw a picture that **describes how living with a relative** (such as a Grandparent, Aunt, or Uncle) **has made a positive difference in your life.**

Caregivers: Write a poem or short essay that describes your **positive** experiences as a Kinship Caregiver. Entries will be judged in 3 categories: Reflect Kinship? Thought Out? Goosebumps?

Age Groups: 5-7 year-olds; 8-12 year-olds; 13-19 year-olds; and Kinship Caregivers

What are the Rules?

- All participating children must live in **Washington State** and children must be **5-19 years old**.
- Poems word count suggestion: 21 lines or less.
- Essays word count suggestion: 200 words or less for **children**, 500 words or less for **caregivers**.
- Make your art as big and bold as possible and add a statement that explains your drawing.
- **Artwork must be submitted on the enclosed entry form.**
- **Do not** include any names within the artwork.
- Artwork must be flat and submitted within the box on the entry form (Other side of this page).
- Winners will be notified in early May and the decisions of the judges are final.
- The Award's Ceremony will be mid May.
- We reserve the right of first publication and use of the writings and drawings submitted.
- All entries may be published in a 2026 Book entitled: **"Voices of Children & Voices of Kinship Caregivers"**

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE

SUBMITTED OR

POSTMARKED BY

APRIL 3rd, 2026

What are the Prizes?

The **Two Top** Entries in each Child Age Division and the top 3 Adult Entries will receive:

* \$100 from Twin Star Credit Union



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Write an essay, poem, or submit a drawing **describing how you have benefited by living with a relative.** Poems suggestion: 21 lines or less.

Essays word count suggestion: 200 words or less for **children**, 500 words or less for **caregivers**. Writings may be submitted on this entry form or a separate piece of white paper.

Drawings should be **BIG, BOLD, and COLORFUL** images. **ARTWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.**

Artwork not submitted on this form will be ineligible for the contest. Do not include any names within the artwork.



Child's Full Name: _____ Age: _____

Adult/Caregiver Name: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(Address) (City) (Zip Code)

Email Address _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Mail or Email Your Contest Entries to:

2026 Voices of Children Contest
c/o Family Education & Support Services
P.O. Box 14907
Tumwater, WA 98511 or kinship@familyess.org

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE
SUBMITTED OR POSTMARKED
BY APRIL 3rd, 2026

Questions? Call: 360.754.7629
OR
Email: kinship@familyess.org

Privacy Note: The information above is for the Award's committee members to contact you and will not be shared with any third parties.

All entries will be published with the child's first name only and age. All other personal information will be withheld.