

The Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity

Fort Scott Community College *NEWS RELEASE*

For Immediate Release: August 28, 2008

Contact: Jill Warford at 1-800-874-3722, ext. 515

Email: [jillw@fortscott.edu](mailto:jillw@fortscott.edu)

## Gordon Parks Center sponsors Creativity Contest for High School Students

Fort Scott, KS – Students in the 9th – 12th grades in any area school may enter a high school creativity contest sponsored by the Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity at Fort Scott Community College. Funding for the contest is provided by the Bourbon County Arts Council. The contest theme is “Diversity in My Life” and the categories include Poetry, Essay, Photography, Collage, Short Film, and Dramatic Interpretation.

There will be an overall first, second, and third place from any of the contest categories. First place will receive \$100; second will be given \$75; and third will win \$50. There will also be eight honorable mention prizes receiving \$25. Each winner will receive a certificate of accomplishment and a copy of the Gordon Parks autobiographical novel “The Learning Tree.”

“This contest provides opportunities for high school students to develop their creativity and to learn a little about Gordon Parks at the same time,” said Gordon Parks Center director Jill Warford. We hope that all the area schools will encourage their students to take part in this artistic endeavor.”

The contest deadline is September 22, 2008. All entries will be displayed during the Gordon Parks Celebration October 1-4, 2008 and the students will also have an opportunity to share their work. For more information contact Warford at 1-800-874-3722, ext. 515 or e-mail at [jillw@fortscott.edu](mailto:jillw@fortscott.edu). You can also find a complete list of contest criteria and entry instructions at [www.gordonparkscenter.org](http://www.gordonparkscenter.org).

###

**CONTEST RULES SEE BELOW**

# FSCC Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity High School Creativity Contest



**WHO CAN ENTER?** Any student currently in the 9th – 12th grades in an FSCC regional area school.

**WHY SHOULD A STUDENT ENTER?** Many high school students love to create and this is a vehicle through which to showcase their work. Because Fort Scott native Gordon Parks was an accomplished photographer, writer, poet, and filmmaker, the Gordon Parks Center seeks to nurture young talent to follow in his footsteps. We encourage students to think about culture and diversity and the themes running throughout Mr. Parks' work.

**Contest Theme: "DIVERSITY In My Life"**

## WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

- There will be an overall first, second and third place winner chosen from any of the following categories: **poetry, essay, photography, collage, short film, or dramatic interpretation (of any of Mr. Parks' works).**
- **FIRST PLACE WILL RECEIVE A CASH PRIZE OF \$100; 2ND PLACE WILL RECEIVE \$75; THIRD PLACE \$50.**
- There will also be up to 8 honorable mentions chosen. Each will receive a cash prize of \$25.
- Each place winner and the honorable mentions will receive a certificate of accomplishment and a copy of Mr. Parks' autobiographical novel, *The Learning Tree*.
- All entries will be on display at the annual Gordon Parks Celebration of Culture and Diversity (October 1-4, 2008). There will also be a designated time at the Celebration for all winners to show or perform their work.

**WHAT CRITERION IS USED FOR JUDGING AND WHO ARE THE JUDGES?** Does the work meet the rules? Does the work have merit, show creativity and social significance? Does the work show an understanding of Gordon Parks' works? The judges are area educators with a background in one or more of the categories.

**WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?** A student may enter twice (from separate categories). There is no entry fee.

### POETRY

- Poems are limited to 21 lines of text and have an original title
- All entries should be typed. Please do not type in all capital letters or double space the poem.
- Entry must be the original creation of the submitting poet. Plagiarism is against the law.

### ESSAYS

- Essays must be no longer than 2 pages in length using Times, 12 point font, double spaced.
- Essay must have an original title.
- Entry must be the original creation of the submitting writer. Plagiarism is against the law.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- Students should submit an 8" x 10" photograph that is their work.
- The photo may be professionally printed or from a laser printer.

### COLLAGE

- Collage should be on an 11 x 17 sheet of paper or posterboard.

### SHORT FILM

- Film should be no longer than five minutes in length.
- It should be submitted in an easily-viewed format (DVD, VHS, etc.).

### DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

- Students must use a selection from one of Mr. Parks' books, poems or writings.
- Five minute time limit
- Students should film their performance and submit the work on an easily-viewed format (DVD, VHS, etc.).

**HOW DO I ENTER?** Contest deadline is September 22, 2008. All entries must be received (not postmarked) by that date. Send your entry with this information on the back: your name (clearly printed), home address, grade, school name, school address and teacher's name and teacher's e-mail to:

#### Diversity in My Life Contest

Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity / Fort Scott Community College  
2108 S. Horton / Fort Scott, KS 66701

Questions? Call the GP Center at 1-800-874-3722, ext. 515 or email: [jillw@fortscott.edu](mailto:jillw@fortscott.edu)

*Sponsored in part by the Bourbon County Arts Council*