

For interviews, please contact: [Claire@portsmouthhistory.org](mailto:Claire@portsmouthhistory.org)  
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# Portsmouth Historical Society announces the first Young Writers Contest

*Portsmouth, New Hampshire...* Calling all young writers eager to put words to paper! Portsmouth Historical Society announces its first ever Young Writers Contest. The contest is an effort to expand the organization's Museum Education Programs. "Our goal is to find new ways to inspire a broader audience to learn something about history, arts or culture in an interesting way," says Claire Spollen, the Society's Education Coordinator and creator of the contest. "I'm excited about engaging all ages, but especially the school-age population."

Entrants are asked to select one work of art by Gertrude Fiske, on display in the downstairs gallery at Discover Portsmouth exhibit, spend time observing the artwork and write a short piece. Entries may be a poem, story, essay, play/dialogue, newspaper article, or any other style desired, but must relate to the artwork selected.

Submissions will be divided into three divisions: Grades 3 – 5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. Participants should enter based on grade level for the 2018-2019 school year. All entries must be submitted by midnight on Saturday, September 22. A panel of judges will read and evaluate the entry on its content, creativity, expression, clarity, quality, and connection to the original artwork. A first prize and honorable mention will be awarded in each division at a ceremony on September 28 at Discover Portsmouth.

"The joy is in inspiring kids to engage with something they don't immediately understand and then realize they know more than they think," Spollen adds, "the community has responded so well to this exhibit and we want our kids to be a part of that."

**For more information** visit: <http://portsmouthhistory.org/portsmouth-historical-society-young-writers-contest/>

## **About Portsmouth Historical Society Museum Education Programs**

Portsmouth Historical Society runs a variety of educational programs for people of all ages. For adults, the Society offers lecture series, historical walking tours, symposia, and guided lunchtime exhibition tours. Our children's educational initiatives can be found in local public schools, as well as on site at both Discover

Portsmouth and the John Paul Jones House Museum and Garden. Our popular Portsmouth Third Grade History Program runs in partnership with the local public school system, and brings advanced knowledge about local and regional history directly into the classroom on a consistent schedule throughout the school year. Other offerings are designed to highlight changing exhibitions and include the Art to Craft children's craft program, storytimes, and our Sketching in the Gallery programs. An ornament decorating event, run in conjunction with the popular Gingerbread House Contest in December, caps off the year.

### **About Portsmouth Historical Society**

Portsmouth Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit that operates Discover Portsmouth, a facility housing exhibition galleries, a welcome center and museum shop, and the John Paul Jones House Museum and Garden, both in downtown Portsmouth. Both locations are open seasonally, seven days a week. Discover Portsmouth is located at 10 Middle Street; the John Paul Jones House Museum and Garden is located across the street at 43 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801. For more information, call 603-436-8433 or visit [www.portsmouthhistory.org](http://www.portsmouthhistory.org)