

# 2017 Indigenous People's Day Essay Contest – The 1850 Sandy Lake Tragedy

2017 marks the third annual Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Grand Rapids. This year we focus on area history that largely goes unexamined. We invite Grand Rapids residents to participate in an essay contest to bring one of our unexamined truths into the light. Click here to learn more about other Indigenous People's Day events and activities. [link to IPD web page copy below]

## Eligibility

The contest is open to all students in ISD 318, grades 6 through 12, and residents of Grand Rapids 18+ years of age. Essays will be judged in one of three categories: 6th - 9th grade, 10th - 12th grade, and residents 18+.

## Submission Guidelines

Submitted essays will examine the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850.

Students are asked to approach their writing by 1) reflecting on what they already know about treaties and modern Indian Reservations, 2) what they want to know, and 3) at the end of their research, what they learned.

All contestants are asked to answer the question, "How does knowing about the Big Sandy Lake Tragedy impact my life today?"

Contestants are required to use these approved reference materials:

The [Why Treaties Matter Educator Guide](#)

- The Sandy Lake Tragedy study questions and suggested answers.
- The Treaty Economy study questions and suggested answers.
- The Vocabulary List.
- Student Reading: Treaty Economy & treaty Rights and Today's Economy
- Chief Buffalo and Benjamin Armstrong (Extension Activities Web Resources)
- [The Sandy Lake Tragedy Video](#) by the [Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission](#)
- There is no word limit, but suggested essay lengths are: 500 words for 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, 1000 words for 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, and 1500 words for residents over 18 years of age. Submissions must include the writer's name, age and contact information.

Note: The Why Treaties Matter exhibit will at the Grand Rapids YMCA October 6 – 20, 2017

## Prizes

Winners will be chosen in each category for third, second, and first place with cash prizes of \$50, \$100, and \$150 respectively. Contest winners will also receive a certificate from Mayor Dale Adams and have an excerpt, chosen by contest judges, from their winning entry in the Grand Rapids Herald Review and on the City of Grand Rapids website and Facebook page.

## **Timeline**

**The essay contest runs September 16<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.** Submissions can be emailed to [ipdessaycontest@gmail.com](mailto:ipdessaycontest@gmail.com) or mailed/delivered to Grand Rapids City Hall C/O Michele Palkki, 420 North Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids, MN, 55744. Contest winners will be notified by November 6<sup>th</sup>, and will be expected to attend the City Council meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> to receive their prize.

## **Privacy Statement and Talent Release**

Your email and/or personal address will only be shared with essay judges and will not be posted or shared with any other third party. By submitting an entry to the Indigenous People's Day Essay Contest, you are agreeing to have other personal information, such as your name and age, shared publicly through the Grand Rapids Herald Review, the City of Grand Rapids website and Facebook page, and on Itasca Community Television. You are also agreeing to have an excerpt, chosen by essay judges, of your essay published on these platforms, and others. You are agreeing that judges' decisions are final and will not be contested.