COLORADO CRANE CONSERVATION COALITION, INC.
Dedicated to the conservation and protection of Sandhill Cranes in Colorado

2027 Crane-Inspired **Creative** Arts Scholarship Contest

Inspiration for Your Project:

Here are a few ideas to get you started with brainstorming for your entry in the CASC. Remember to focus on the unique qualities of the Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes and the Yampa Valley through the lens of your unique perspective and creative expression.

The CCCC website is an excellent resource to get you started by learning about Greater Sandhill Cranes. Go to the "Resources" tab for information, facts, and webinars, or head to our Nest Camera webpages to check out some of our Nest Camera highlight videos.

Category 1: Story or Essay

- **Creative Nonfiction Essay:**
  - Write a personal essay reflecting on a memorable experience with the Rocky Mountain Sandhill Cranes. How did this experience shape your understanding of these magnificent birds and their unique role in the local ecosystem?
- **Short Story:** Write a fictional story that incorporates the cranes as central characters, exploring themes of migration, family, or survival, for example.

Category 2: Poetry or Song

- **Poetry:**

  Compose a collection of poems that capture the essence of the Sandhill Cranes. Consider exploring themes of crane migration, resilience, survival, or interconnections between the built and natural world.

- **Song:** Write and perform an original song inspired by the Sandhill Cranes in the Yampa Valley, their migration, or the landscapes they inhabit.

Category 3: Visual Arts

- **Painting/Drawing:** Create artwork that depicts the Sandhill Cranes in their natural habitat. Consider using vibrant colors and dynamic composition to convey the qualities of these birds.

- **Photography:** Capture the beauty and behavior of the Sandhill Cranes through photography. Focus on unique perspectives, interesting lighting, or decisive moments that highlight their behavior or significant adaptive traits.
- **Digital Art:** Use digital tools to create unique and innovative artwork that celebrates the Sandhill Cranes. Experiment with different styles, techniques, and mediums to express your artistic vision.
- **Sculpture:** Create a three-dimensional representation of a crane, emphasizing its form, movement, and the beauty of its surroundings.

Additional Tips & Considerations:

- **Research**: Delve into the specific characteristics of the Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Crane population. What sets them apart from other populations? How have they adapted to their unique environment?
- **Personal Connection:** Share your personal connection with Sandhill Cranes. What draws you to these birds? How have they impacted your life?
- **Creativity:** Don't be afraid to think outside the box. Your submission should be original, engaging, and reflective of your unique perspective.
- **Accuracy:** Ensure that your submission is accurate and factually correct.
- **Technical skills**: Proofread and have others review your work!
- **Unique Perspective:** In addition to creating from your own unique perspective, consider exploring the cranes from a novel perspective, such as the viewpoint of a crane.
- **Cultural Significance:** Delve into the cultural significance of the cranes to indigenous or other communities in the region.
- **Conservation Message:** Incorporate a conservation message into your work. Why is it important to protect these magnificent birds and their habitat?

We hope that you find these ideas inspiring and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or seek additional information! By researching and brainstorming, you can create a submission that not only highlights the unique qualities of the Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes but also showcases your own unique perspective and experience in the Yampa Valley.

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