

RULES

of the Writing Competition

“Spotted Hero”

The Amur leopard is one of our planet’s rarest felines. It is the northernmost leopard subspecies and the only one adapted to life in a snow climate. One hundred years ago, these felines inhabited the entire Korean Peninsula and Northeast China. However, hunting for this magnificent animal and fires in its habitats resulted in catastrophic consequences. The Amur leopard has found itself on the brink of extinction. By early 2000s, its home range has dwindled to a narrow strip in the southwest of Primorsky Region. As few as 35 leopards were counted here.

Not many were aware of the problem of disappearance of this wonderful cat. Since the dawn of time, the focus was on its neighbor – Siberian tiger. In comparison with this striped predator, leopard looked a less ferocious but more mysterious animal. It was more difficult to see it and it never attacked the man first. That was adversely affecting itself.

The world could have lost this unique feline but it was meant to survive. Due to efforts of environmental organizations and the Russian Government, the National Park “Land of the Leopard” was established within the home range of Amur leopards in 2012. The rare animal’s will to live and the national park’s activities have yielded fruit: its population has nearly tripled during the last decade. This achievement is a bright and rare successful example of nature conservation activities in recent times.

The history of relations between the man and the leopard is full of drama. Through man’s fault, the cautious and mysterious feline found itself on the brink of extinction. But, thanks to the same man, we see recovery of the leopard – a spotted hero of our time.

1. General

1.1. These Rules of the “Spotted Hero” Writing Competition (hereinafter, the Competition) regulate its procedure and remain in force till completion of all competition-related activities.

1.2. The organizers of the Competition are the Federal State Budgetary Institution “United Administration of “Kedrovaya Pad” State Nature Biosphere Reserve and National Park “Land of the Leopard” named after N.N. Vorontsov and the “Far Eastern Leopards” Autonomous Non-Profit Organization.

1.3. The purpose of the Competition is to attract broad public attention to the problem of conservation of the Amur leopard’s wild population.

1.4. Objectives of the Competition:

- create an understandable and intimate image of the Amur leopard;
- form a positive image of Specially Protected Natural Territories and, in particular, the National Park “Land of the Leopard”;



- support talented authors, contribute to aesthetic and ecological education of participants.

1.5. The Organizing Committee of the Competition (hereinafter, the Committee) consists of representatives of FSBI “Land of the Leopard” and “Far Eastern Leopards” ANO and performs the following functions:

- appointment of the judges of the Competition;
- summing up of results and selection of finalists.

2. Participants of the Competition

2.1. Applications for participation in the Competition may be submitted in Russian and English languages by children and adults living in any area of the world.

2.2. There are no limitations on the age of participants.

2.3. Participants will be divided into three age groups:

- under 10 years
- 11 to 17 years
- 18 years or older.

3. Nominations of the Competition

3.1. “Fairy Tale” Nomination

Eligible for the Competition are stories narrating about the Amur leopard with elements of fantasy. Conditions: the leopard shall be a central character of the fairy tale, it is also desirable to mention the southwest of Primorsky Region as a home for this animal’s main population. There are no limitations on the volume of the story.

3.2. “Essay, Short Story, Novella” Nomination

Eligible for the Competition are creative works describing stories focused on various aspects of the history of spread, struggle for life and revival of the Amur leopard’s population. Such descriptions can be made on behalf of an outside observer – man or animal, in first person or on behalf of an inanimate object. Conditions: the narrative shall contain real facts from the life of the Amur leopard wild population. The story may contain elements



of the work of fiction. The author may freely select the genre of his/her story (essay, short story or novella) depending on its size and semantic content. There are no limitations on the volume of the story.

3.3. “Poem, Song” Nomination

Eligible for the Competition are creative works the main character of which is a wild Amur leopard. Conditions: the work should preferably contain facts from the life of the Amur leopard population. The author may freely select the genre of his/her work (poem or song). In case of a song, the participant should provide an audio record with background music. There are no limitations on the volume of the creative work.

4. Conditions for Participation in the Competition

4.1. The Competition will take place in one round with submitted works to be assessed by the judges of the Competition.

4.2. Competition entries will be received from April 05 through December 05, 2019.

4.3. Every participant may submit two entries maximum in each nomination.

4.4. Eligible for the Competition are works created by participants themselves. All texts will be checked for uniqueness. Creative works published earlier under a different person’s authorship will not be accepted for the Competition.

4.5. A Competition Participant Questionnaire (Attachment 1) shall be attached to each creative work.

4.6. Participants shall submit their entries in an electronic form during April 05 – December 05, 2019 to e-mail address: lit@leopard-land.ru. Entries can also be submitted in a printed form – by post services or when directly visiting the central office of FSBI “Land of the Leopard” or the Visit Center of FSBI “Land of the Leopard”. Mailed entries will be registered according to the date on their stamp.

All submitted entries shall bear a mark – “For Spotted Hero Competition”. Upon reception of electronic versions, the Organizing Committee will respond to the sender and confirm receipt of his/her material.

4.7. No creative works received for participation in the Competition will reviewed or returned.



4.8. The organizers reserve the right for noncommercial use of materials submitted for the Competition with proper observance of authors' copyrights (e.g. publication in the Internet, reproduction, use in preparation of various publications and exhibitions relating to the theme of the Competition).

4.9. Through voluntary provision of their personal data, Competition participants confirm their consent for collection, storage, processing and distribution of such data for the purposes of the Competition by the organizers or their authorized representatives who will take all necessary measures to protect such data against unauthorized disclosure.

5. Summing Up Results of the Competition

5.1. Winners will be selected by the judges of the Competition.

5.2. The judges of the Competition will assess creative works against the following criteria:

- environmental protection importance;
- compliance with the theme of the Competition;
- quality of creative works from an artistic point of view;
- originality of execution;
- informative content;
- interesting artistic solutions;
- literacy aspects of narration.

5.3. The judges will make their decisions by a simple majority of votes of judges attending the session. In case of equally divided votes, the Judging Panel Chairperson's vote will be deciding.

5.4. The names of winners will be announced before or on December 20, 2019 through publication on the website: www.leopard-land.ru.



6. Awards for Winners of the Competition

6.1. Winners of the Competition will be selected in each of three nominations and each of three age groups – nine winners in total. There will also be a Grand Prix awarded regardless of the winner's nomination and age group.

6.2. Each of nine winners will be awarded diplomas and prizes. The Grand Prix winner will receive a special diploma and the main award of the Competition.

6.3. In the process of winner selection, additional winners may be selected who will be awarded with diplomas and encouragement prizes.

6.4. The date, time and location of the winner awarding ceremony will be announced additionally.

7. Contact Data

7.1. Postal address: 127 Prospekt 100-Letiya Vladivostoku, Vladivostok, Primorsky Region 690068.

7.2. Address of the Visit Center of FSBI "Land of the Leopard": 6B Khasanskaya Street, Barabash Village, Primorsky Region 692723.

7.3. Telephone number: +7 (423) 201-26-89, +7 964 445 82 48.

7.4. e-mail: lit@leopard-land.ru

7.5. Contact person for inquiries: Maria Arkadievna Okulova, Public Relation Department Manager.

7.6. An electronic version of these Rules and Questionnaire is available at website leopard-land.ru, section with announcements.



Attachment No. 1
to the Rules of the “Spotted Hero” Competition

COMPETITION PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE
“Spotted Hero” Competition

1. Name:
2. Date of birth:
3. Ethnic origin:
4. Profession:
5. Contact telephone number:
6. Postal address including area code:
7. e-mail:
8. Title of the work submitted for the Competition:
9. How you learned about our Competition:
10. Additional information (optional):