



# VETERANS FOR PEACE

Gainesville, Chapter 14

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*"If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children." – Mohandas Gandhi*

**January 27, 2014**

Dear Educator and Community Leader,

The Gainesville chapter of Veterans for Peace announces its **5th ANNUAL PEACE POETRY CONTEST** for Alachua County, where all students, grades K–12, are encouraged to submit one original poem focusing on their interpretation of "peace."

Veterans for Peace members believe that peace-making and hope for a peaceful world begin in our community, our homes and our schools. That is why we invite you and your students to participate in the contest this year; a peaceful possibility lies in the younger generations of today who will be leading, transforming and inspiring the world tomorrow.

Though this contest holds no formal position on the current state of world affairs, we still want to honor the ideal of peace through the perspectives of young people. Peace is a uniquely human conception and affirms the human spirit. It is especially important to remember that peace is not merely a goal but a human right. In that spirit of reflection, we encourage everyone to contribute a poem to this contest.

Last year, more than 200 students submitted poems, and winners received gift certificates to Book Gallery West, a locally owned and operated bookstore. Three winners also read their poems at the Veterans for Peace Winter Solstice Concert in December in front of more than 350 attendees.

A panel of English graduate students from the University of Florida, led by Dr. Sidney Wade, will judge the poems based on creativity and use of language. The winners will be published in the 2014 Peace Poetry Booklet and asked to recite their piece at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May in Gainesville. Winners will also receive valuable gift certificates to a local bookstore according to their age and place (first, second, or third place, or honorable mention, in their age group).

Students who missed out on last year's contest can get involved this year by submitting one poem by **March 14, 2014**. This is a flexible deadline; if you need more time, please contact us. We encourage electronic submissions to help our judges and publishers compile the poems in a timely manner.

Submissions must include the poem, poet's name, poet's grade level and school, and direct contact information for the poet's parent/guardian/ (preferably e-mail, phone number and mailing address). Direct contact information for poet or poet's parent/guardian is **REQUIRED** in order to contact contest winners. Poems can be emailed to **vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com** or mailed to:

VFP Peace Poetry Contest  
2115 NW 7th Lane  
Gainesville, FL 32603

Please email [vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) for more information.