







**MEMO**

**To:** MSL Commissioners  
**From:** Jennifer Birnel, Montana History Portal Director  
**Subject:** Montana History Portal annual contest participation  
**Date:** June 5, 2023

The Montana History Portal conducted two user-engagement contests in 2023. The first contest was the third annual historical picture prompt writing contest which we held in partnership with Distinctly Montana magazine and the Museum of the Rockies. Participants were invited to use any image on the Portal as a story prompt to write a story of 600 words or less. Participants were judged in three age groups: 3-6 grade, 7-12 grade, and adult. This year we had 136 entries, more than our previous years. First and second place winners earned prizes from Distinctly Montana including subscriptions to the magazine, gift certificates to their online store, Museum of the Rockies tickets, and the winning stories will be published on the [Distinctly Montana webpage](#) later this year.




## 2023 Writing Contest Winners



3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Name	Image
First Place	Mojave Gegersen	
Second Place	Neva Sliman	

7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Name	Image
First Place	Thomas Johnson	
Second Place	Brielle Carr	
Adult	Name	Image
First Place	Brent Baldwin	
Second Place	Sharee Miller	

The second contest was the third annual Montana Meme-ory Contest. Participants were invited to create a meme using any image on the Portal. The three age groups for this contest are 10-18 years old, 19-40 years old, and 41+ years old. Memes are uploaded to the History Portal website and users are asked to vote for their favorites. This year we received 206 entries. Winners received prizes from the Montana State Library, Montana Historical Society, and Montana Outdoors. All memes and the winning memes can be viewed on the [Montana History Portal](#).

## 2023 Meme-ory Contest Winners

Ages 10-18	Name	Image
First Place	Tylar Smith – “Another one bites the dust”	
Second Place	Isaiah Dietz – “Why women live longer than men”	
Ages 19-40	Name	Image
First Place	Xerxes M. Budomo – “Yellowstone Squad”	

Second Place	Chantz Thilmony – “Sulking”	
Ages 41-120	Name	Image
First Place	Jackie Heinert – “Extended Warranty”	
Second Place	Brent Baldwin – “How to dress”	