

Encounters with Canada 'Historica at the Games' reporting program criteria

Introduction:

SET-BC and 2010 Legacies Now, with support from 3M, have been working with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) to find Games-time reporting opportunities for SET-BC students who participate in Virtual Voices Village (vvvillage.org), SET-BC's online student reporting website. VANOC established a partnership with Historica-Encounters with Canada to run a Games-time reporting program for youth across Canada. 2010 Legacies Now has partnered directly with Historica-Encounters with Canada to hold six (6) spaces (three (3) for the Olympic Games and three (3) for the Paralympic Games) for this Games-time reporting program to provide an Olympic and Paralympic Games reporting experience to SET-BC-Virtual Voices Village students.

Program Overview:

The 'Historica at the Games' project will have three phases: Pre-Games, Games-Time and Post-Games. Students will be required to apply to participate in the program. Grants will be available to SET-BC students to cover the cost (excluding accommodation) of participating in 'Historica at the Games'.

The Pre-Games Phase will accomplish its goals of generating interest for the Games-Time events through the creation of student-developed videos, interviews, reports, online blogs, contests and other educational activities. Indeed, the majority of the content will be youth-driven, ensuring it speaks directly to this target audience, encouraging young people to get further involved in the whole "Historica at the Games" project. This phase will take place throughout the country and around the world, encouraging youth everywhere to take part.

The Games-Time Phase will take place in Vancouver and Whistler, where 60 Canadian students (30 for the Olympic Games and 30 for the Paralympic Games) from British Columbia will provide on-site coverage of the Olympic and Paralympic Games through reporting and interviews of athletes, artists, officials and spectators. These students will also write a daily blog, answering questions from all over the country and the world, as well as describing their daily adventures. All videos and blogs gathered will be posted on FYICanada.ca, EWC's youth engagement website (an interactive website where Canadian teens can express their ideas and opinions on relevant Canadian issues).

The Post-Games Phase: will be designed to ensure the lasting legacy of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. This will be accomplished by archiving all videos and blogs of the 'Historica at the Games' project on the FYICanada.ca website and linking this content to teacher-centric websites, such as Access.ca (the online teaching community) and HistoryWire (a new and interactive website that connects Canadian history to current events).

Participation Criteria:

Six (6) SET-BC students will be selected to participate in 'Historica at the Games'. SET-BC students can apply to participate in the 'Historica at the Games' reporting program if the following criteria are met:

- Students must be a SET-BC supported student
- Students must be between 16-18 years old
- Students must have attended an Encounters with Canada week in Ottawa* no later than December 5, 2009 (grants are available for students selected to participate in the 'Historica at the Games' reporting program to attend an Encounters with Canada week in Ottawa through 2010 Legacies Now, please contact Lyndsey Morrison at lmorrison@2010LegaciesNow.com for more information)

- Students must be registered in the EBUS online journalism course (www.ebus.ca) OR (have) participate(d) in an Encounters with Canada journalism/communications week (held November 1 - 7, 2009)
- Students must have filed at least two (2) stories on vvillage.org between January 2009 and September 18, 2009. **Email the stories to jcash@setbc.org**
- Students must demonstrate the maturity, independence and journalism skills to write a daily blog and report on the Games
- Students will be responsible for providing their own accommodation in Vancouver
- Students must be available and able to participate during the required dates (February 11-18, 2010 (Olympic Games) and/or March 11-18, 2010(Paralympic Games))

How to apply:

- Students must complete the 'Historica at the Games' application by September 16 which includes:
 - Name, address, school, email
 - Teacher and parent permission and support
 - Essay (800 - 1000 words): What do you believe to be the most significant Canadian Winter Olympic moment in history?
- Application forms are available at vvillage.org under student journalism
- For additional information or clarification please contact Lyndsey Morrison at lmorrison@2010LegaciesNow.com.

Students who have completed all the above criteria will be considered for the 'Historica at the Games' reporting program. Student selection will be based on the essay submissions, to be judged by a panel who will select a winner based on a variety of criteria (historical accuracy, grammar, structure, etc.).

Next Steps:

- Complete the 'Historica at the Games' application form and submit to lmorrison@2010LegaciesNow.com or 778.327.5199, Attention: Lyndsey (fax) by September 25, 2009
- If accepted, apply for and participate in an Encounters with Canada week if the student hasn't already done so

* Encounters with Canada is Canada's largest youth forum. Every week of the school year, 120-138 teens from across Canada (ages 14-17) come to Ottawa where they discover their country through each other, learn about Canadian institutions, meet famous and accomplished Canadians, explore exciting career themes, develop their civic leadership skills, and live an extraordinary bilingual experience. Encounters with Canada has been offering exceptional Canadian youth programming for over 25 years. Over 81,000 youth have lived the quality Encounters with Canada experience so far. For more information visit <http://www.ewc-rdc.ca/en/home.html>