



## ATTENTION, MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!

Join SpenserNation!

Spenser is looking for fantastic middle schoolers to help write his next book - a family-friendly guide to

**PORTLAND!**

You can help Spenser by:

- Being an author – writing for the book
- Being a judge – helping decide which writings go in the book

## BEING AN AUTHOR

Students who win this contest will become published authors!

**WHO:** middle school students (grades 6-8) with the permission of parent or guardian.

**WHAT:** write an essay describing a perfect day visiting and sightseeing in Portland. Be sure to include meals, parking, admission fees, etc. You can download a contest entry form, essay outline form, and sample essay at [spensernation.com](http://spensernation.com) on the Friends tab.

Ask your parents or teacher to review your work.

Remember correct spelling, appropriate grammar, and good vocabulary are important. We want the world to know how smart the middle schoolers in Portland are!

**HOW:** Submit completed essay and contest entry form to [spenser@spensernation.com](mailto:spenser@spensernation.com) or mail to SpenserNation, 5500 Abercorn Street, Suite 32, Savannah, Georgia 31405. Essays should be typed or very carefully printed.

Professional editors will review essays and changes may be suggested. Finalists will receive the edited essay back to review and confirm. Approved essays of the finalists will be judged by Portland middle school students and by a team of judges.

**WHEN:** Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2009. This gives you the holiday break to work on your entry.

**PRIZES:** All winners will be published in a Portland tour guide. Winners' names will be on the cover! Winners will also receive a Spenser Medal and five copies of the book. All names will be engraved on the Portland plaque that will hang on Spenser's Wall of Fame.

## BEING A JUDGE

Students who would like to help judge the contest entries are needed. Since Spenser doesn't live in Portland, he is not the best person to review entries for accuracy.

**WHO:** middle school students (grades 6-8) with the permission of parent or guardian. If you are interested you should apply at [spensernation.com](http://spensernation.com) on the Friends tab. Click on middle school.

**WHAT:** Each judge will receive one essay (you may request more if you would like) to judge. You will not know who wrote the essay. Judging should include visiting the places in the essay and making sure they match the descriptions, locations, prices, etc. This will require transportation and may cost money for entrance fees, etc. so parental permission is necessary. Ask your parents if they would like to do this with you! It could be a family adventure. It will be important that you be very honest and open-minded. Personal opinions of attractions, restaurants, etc. should not be part of the judging process.

**HOW:** When you receive an essay, you will also receive a judging form. You should complete the form as you verify the essay and return it to [spenser@spensernation.com](mailto:spenser@spensernation.com) or mail to SpenserNation, 5500 Abercorn Street, Suite 32, Savannah, Georgia 31405. Forms should be typed or very carefully printed.

**WHEN:** Essays will be distributed starting the middle of January, 2009. They should be returned to Spenser by February 15. You will be notified in December if you are selected to be a judge so you and your parents can plan for your judging adventure.

**PRIZES:** All judges will receive a Certificate of Judging and a copy of the book. The names of the judges will be listed in the book.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Employees and their family members of CSM, Simple Fish Book Company, SpenserNation, and Operation Hungry Child may not participate.