FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Student Contest: Writing about Place

Teaching the Hudson Valley (THV) invites K-12 students to tell us about places in the Hudson Valley that have special meaning for them.

All submissions will be considered for publication on THV’s blog and will be shared with staff or volunteers at the places written about. The classes of three students—one each elementary, middle, and high school—will receive funds to cover transportation and admission fees so they can share their place with classmates during a field trip. Additional prizes are described below.

K-5 students may submit poems of any style and length. Older students should send essays or other creative prose--grades 6-8 up to 500 words; grades 9-12, up to 1,000 words. Writing must be submitted by Monday, November 10.

Eligibility. K-12 students who live and/or attend school in the 11-county Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area including Westchester, Ulster, Saratoga, Rockland, Rensselaer, Putnam, Orange, Greene, Dutchess, Columbia, and Albany counties are eligible. To be considered for prizes, places written about must be regularly open to the public, have cultural, historic, or natural significance; and be owned or managed by a not-for-profit or government entity.

Evaluation. Readers will look for evocation of place, a lively style, and use of conventions appropriate to each student's age and development. Submissions will be read by teachers, writers, site staff, THV’s coordinator, and representatives from the NYS DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program, the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt-Van Buren National Historic Sites, and the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College.

Additional prizes. One elementary school student will receive two tickets (1 child and 1 adult) to Mount Gulian Historic Site’s spring tea, held annually during spring break. Other prizes include a stuffed animal and notecards. More items may be added.