FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Writing about Place: Calling all Hudson Valley students to write

Hyde Park, NY – Now in its sixth year, Teaching the Hudson Valley’s (THV) Writing about Place contest asks K-12 students to tell us about places in the region that are special to them.

Who – All students living and/or attending school in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area including Westchester, Ulster, Saratoga, Rockland, Rensselaer, Putnam, Orange, Greene, Dutchess, Columbia, and Albany counties are eligible. Writing should be recent, completed during summer or fall of 2017, and submitted by Friday, November 10.

What – Writers should choose a place they know and would like to share with their classmates. To be eligible, 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 a government entity.

K-4 students are asked to submit a poem of up to 250 words. Middle and high school students may choose one of three prompts for essays of up to 1,000 or 1,500 words, respectively. Writers may include a photo, drawing, collage, or other graphic, but no student will lose points for submitting only written work. Teachers and others can get the prompts here.

Prizes – All pieces submitted will be considered for publication on THV’s blog. The classes of three top-scoring students -- one each from grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 -- will be reimbursed up to $900 for transportation and admission fees to visit the place written about.

Evaluation – Readers will look for a vibrant style and use of language appropriate to each student’s age and development. Submissions will be read by teachers, writers, museum and historic site staff, and representatives from the NYS DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program, and the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College.

For details about Writing about Place, including submission forms, guidelines, prize information, and more, visit THV’s website.