

*Art Contest: People of the Pines. People of Peace.*

Dear Middle School Students of Evesham, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the Delaware Valley, & Moorestown Friends School,

All of us live in Lenapehoking, the land of the Lenni-Lenape. Over three hundred years ago, the Lenni-Lenape encountered European cultures: Swedes, Finns, and English Quakers. Their cultures intermarried and managed to live in peace. During the 1700's Quakers started the Anti-Slavery movement. Jewish refugees arrived in West Jersey in the 1800's. This story of our cultural heritage; one of tolerance, respect, and recognition of human rights is unique.

If social injustice is one of your concerns and you have a desire to take antiracist action, then it's my honor to invite you to learn about an art contest for our times sponsored by a partnership of community groups: Friends of the Black Run Preserve (FBRP), Evesham Township School District, Evesham Middle School PTA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Delaware Valley, and Evesham Township's Human Rights Advisory Council.

During the 1960's I was your age, a time when the Civil Rights Movement lead by Dr. Martin Luther King was made real to me through the pages of Life Magazine. Photojournalism presented racial injustice in a way a middle schooler could understand. Today, video of the George Floyd's murder makes clear to all, the racial injustice that still exists in America. The Vietnam War was brought into my living room via television. Until the Afghanistan War, it was America's longest war. For many young people, awareness of such events is a call to action. Perhaps that's how you feel now.

This art contest, *People of the Pines. People of Peace*, is designed to provide a point of view from your generation. You may enter as an individual, with a partner, or with a group up to 4. The art work can be music, poetry, video, or visual art. If you're interested, visit the FBRP website: [www.blackrun.org](http://www.blackrun.org) under "Events" tab and view the video presentation "Recognizing Our Heritage of Racial Equality in the Delaware Valley and the Pine Barrens of West Jersey" an overview of Evesham Township's history and more. (NOTE: see update/change to prizes).

Then, with your parent/guardian's permission, you can choose to accept this invitation and download the following information:

- Parent/guardian permission form
- Entry form w/Honor Code statement, and Judging Rubric
- Historical Information Resource Timeline with web & video links/resources

Please send permission and entry forms sent to [nikkis@blackrun.org](mailto:nikkis@blackrun.org). If you have questions, email [johnv@blackrun.org](mailto:johnv@blackrun.org). (put "Art Contest" in the subject line.) The project partners hope you'll be motivated to inspire the recreation of a culture of peace through art.

Sincerely,  
John Volpa  
Founder & Chair of the Friends of the Black Run Preserve