

# Youth Hunter Essay Contest

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**Background:** The Crown X Ranch ([www.cxsafaris.com](http://www.cxsafaris.com)) is a private hunting ranch in Marfa, Texas, featuring 31 different species of game, including Cape buffalo from Africa. The ranch is largely a retreat for the Schwerdtfeger family, owners of the Crown X Ranch, but limited hunting opportunities have been offered through Magnum Guide Service ([www.magnumguideservice.com](http://www.magnumguideservice.com)). The ranch encompasses 35,000 acres. A portion of it is fenced, and hunting takes place both inside and outside the fence.

Concerned for the future of hunting as a conservation tool, the Schwerdtfeger family is inviting the children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews of *Hunting Report* subscribers to participate in an essay-writing contest and share their thoughts on the topic: **How Can Hunters, Guides And Outfitters Get More Kids Involved In Hunting and Conservation?** The winning essayist will enjoy a two-day guided hunt for a gemsbok on the Crown X Ranch.

The rules and requirements to participate are as follows:

**Who may participate:** children ages 9 to 17 related to a subscriber of *The Hunting Report*.

**Length of essay:** minimum of 400 words and up to 1,000.

**Prize:** A hunt for a gemsbok at the Crown X Ranch, guided by Jim Roche of Magnum Guide Service. Includes meals, lodging, guiding, two days of hunting and three nights lodging for one youth hunter and one non-hunting parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, who may be upgraded to a hunter at regular rates.

**Dates of hunt:** March 13-16, 2010 or March 18-21, 2010. Winner must be able to travel to the ranch the week of March 15.

**Deadline to receive all entries:** Thursday, February 25, 2010.

**Where to send entries:** To Hunting Report Editor Barbara Crown – E-mail:Barbara@huntingreport.com. Fax 305-253-5532. Mail: The Hunting Report, Attention Barbara Crown, 12182 SW 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33186.

**Other Requirements:** Participants must indicate they have the rudimentary skills and ability to participate on the prize hunt. Please include information on shooting or hunting experience. Child should be able to handle a .243 at minimum with a .270 preferable. Roche is experienced in guiding youth hunters and will provide some coaching and encouragement, but some preparedness on the youngster's part is necessary.

**Parent or Guardian authorization:** Authorization for participation from parent or legal guardian as well as a release of liability must be signed and accompany all entries.

**Judges:** Entries will be judged by the ranch owners, Jim Roche of Magnum Guide Service and *Hunting Report* Editor Barbara Crown.

**Notification:** The winner will be notified no later than February 28 by telephone and e-mail. Entries must include the child's name, age and grade, as well as the name of and the relationship to a *Hunting Report* subscriber and complete contact details, including phone, e-mail and mailing address.

The Schwerdtfegers want the sincere thoughts and ideas of today's youth, so please, no "help" from adults. Good luck!

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