



WSCAH ROCKS THE BLOCK

West Side Campaign Against Hunger's (WSCAH) mission is to alleviate hunger by ensuring that all New Yorkers have access, with dignity, to a choice of healthy food and supportive services. WSCAH is one of the largest emergency food providers in NYC and has been at the forefront of innovation for 43 years, developing the first customer-choice supermarket-style pantry in the United States. Beyond providing food, WSCAH also offers customers a comprehensive suite of social support services aimed at helping families on their journey to food security.

WSCAH ROCKS THE BLOCK

Sunday, May 21, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

86th St. b/t West End Ave. & Riverside Dr.

A fun-filled day where you can make an impact!

WSCAH is excited to host our second annual block party! **ROCKS THE BLOCK** features many opportunities to support New Yorkers facing food insecurity. Activities include packing boxes of shelf-stable food and fresh produce and fun for the whole family with good local food, entertainment, and speakers, including local elected officials.

Poetry and Prose Writing Competition

Our first annual writing contest invites young writers (ages 10 to 18) to share poetry and prose submissions on and about food.

The food we eat nourishes our bodies and minds, but that's just the beginning of the essential role cooking and eating play in our lives. Consider the importance of food, how does food connect to memory, culture, and family? How can writing and thinking about the significance of food strengthen ourselves and our communities?

Age Categories

10-12 years old, 13-15 years old, 16-18 years old

WSCAH will select a group of finalists from each age group. All finalists will have the option to be published online on WSCAH's website and receive a WSCAH gift bag.

There will be three winners in each age category. Winners are invited to perform their work on Sunday, May 21st, at WSCAH's annual block party – **ROCKS THE BLOCK**. They will also receive a gift card to a local business.

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Submission Guidelines

Maximum 1-page length (multiple submissions will not be considered)

Age-appropriate language (submissions with offensive language will not be considered)

Submissions must be uploaded by 11:59 pm on April 21st

How to submit

You can submit your writing (max 1 page) by [following this link](#).

A signed authorization form must accompany submissions from individuals under 18. You can [download the submission authorization form here](#).

Prompts

These are just suggestions: if you have an exciting idea for how to write about food that isn't represented below, go for it!

Write about the best meal you ever had. What made it so good?

Share how to prepare a special food or meal.

Share about a time when you ate a special meal with your family.

Write about your favorite food. What do you love about this food? When did you first try it? What does it remind you of?

Food can oftentimes be strongly connected with memory through taste, smell, texture, and other senses. Write about an important memory or experience that you associate with food.

Think of your favorite meal. Write a poem about the recipe or experience of eating it, describing how each ingredient and every action contributes to the final whole. Evoke all your senses—from the smell of cooking onions to the sizzle of a frying pan. Explore what this meal means to you and why.

Think about the importance that food plays in our community - how does food bring us together? What do we share over and with food?

Think about the idea of fullness or nourishment. What does it mean to you to be full... full of healthy food, full of love, full of family? What's possible when we are nourished? How is being 'full' about more than what we eat?

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