

**CRITERIA FOR THE
2009 BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING AWARD**

1. Program must be sponsored by an organization (schools, libraries, clubs, scout troops) within the United States.
2. Program must promote reading as a way to expand a child's world.
3. Program must use books and reading as a way of promoting an understanding of one or more cultures of countries outside the United States. The targeted cultures should not be those from which the majority of the children participating in the program have come.
4. Program must focus on cultures of individual countries rather than on continents as a whole. A program may include cultures of same or all countries on a continent or culture from a selection of countries from various continents.
5. Stereotypes or traditional costumes without cultural authenticity and contemporary significance to a culture will disqualify the entry. Preference will be given to current rather than traditional culture.
6. The program may be a one-time event or an ongoing series that serves children ranging in age from kindergarten through tenth grade.
7. In order to be considered, the program must occur within 2008. The program may begin in a prior year and extend into the eligible year. Entire project must be described and submitted in the year in which the project is completed. An ongoing program may be submitted but must be fully described.
8. Goals for the program must be stated and the program must meet the stated goals. How it reaches the goals must be described.
9. The impact on the community must be demonstrated by publicity coverage or anecdotal evidence.