



*Eliot Aging In Place  
Committee*

## **“The Benches Writing Contest” Announced by Eliot’s AIP Committee to Celebrate Town’s New Benches**

*Eliot Residents Ages 8 to 108 Are Invited to Submit an Original Essay, Short Story, or Poem  
with a Public Bench as a Central Component; A Coloring Page for Our Youngest Residents*

**August 2, 2021** — The Eliot Aging in Place (AIP) Committee today announced “The Benches Writing Contest” to celebrate the five new public benches the Committee installed at the Eliot Boat Basin and the two new benches that will be installed at the William Fogg Library. The Writing Contest caps the Aging In Place Committee’s project to install benches in places in town where the public, especially older residents, may enjoy the view and rest while walking. AIP secured grants from the AARP 2020 Challenge Grant and the Maine Community Fund to pay for the cost of the benches. The Town of Eliot’s Community Service Department, Department of Public Works, and Garden Club and many volunteers helped make the benches project a reality.

### **Writing Contest Rules**

Eliot residents, ages 8 to 108, are invited to submit an original essay or short story, no more than 800 words, or a poem with a public bench as a central component to the Writing Contest. There is no fee to enter the contest. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Entrants must include their name, age, and contact information on their submission. Submissions may be emailed to [AIP@eliotme.org](mailto:AIP@eliotme.org) or dropped into the blue AIP drop box at Eliot’s Fogg Library.

Winners will be named in five categories: ages 8-10, ages 11-13, ages 14-18, ages 19 to 50, and ages 50 and older. Each winner receives a \$50.00 gift card to Barnes & Noble. Winners will be announced at Eliot Fall Festival Days on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Contest judges include AIP members and local writers.

### **Coloring Page for Children**

Children seven years of age and younger, actually all children, are invited to color a one-pager celebrating “New Benches in My Town!” The coloring page is available [here for at-home printing](#) or by the AIP drop box at Fogg Library. Children are asked to bring their finished coloring page to the AIP booth at Eliot Fall Festival Days on Saturday, September 25, 2021, to be displayed. There is no prize for the coloring page but plenty of applause.

### **About Eliot’s Aging In Place Committee**

The mission of the Aging In Place Committee is to provide advocacy for changes in Eliot's physical, economic, and social environment that enable Eliot residents, especially older residents, to live in their homes for as long as possible and that foster the creation of services and programs geared to keeping all residents active and engaged in the community. For more information about AIP, please go to the Town of Eliot website at <https://www.eliotmaine.org/aging-place-committee>.

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