



Florida Black History Month 2015

"A Celebration of African-American Innovation & Innovators"

Governor Rick Scott & First Lady Ann Scott's Black History Month Essay Contest

Official Rules and Guidelines, Part 1 Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

Governor Rick Scott's Black History Month Essay Contest is open to all Florida students in grades 4-12. Three winners will be selected: one elementary school student (grades 4-5), one middle school student (grades 6-8), and one high school student (grades 9-12). Winners will be notified after February 4, 2015.

Eligibility: Contestants must be Florida residents and able to provide a Social Security Number.

Entry Dates: Entries must be mailed to Volunteer Florida: Black History Month Committee, 3800 Esplanade Way, Suite 180, Tallahassee, Florida 32311. **All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on January 21, 2015. (Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.)**

Entry Form: Student must provide all required information requested on the entry form (and entry form must be legible). The student and parent/legal guardian are required to read and understand these rules in order to complete the entry form in its entirety. The entry form includes a release and certification that must be signed by a parent or guardian.

4th & 5th Grade essays should address the following topic:

Florida is a great place to live, work, and play because of our beautiful weather, fun attractions and growing economy. There are many reasons businesses like to operate in Florida, which means many new products, services and ideas are often created in our state. Throughout history, African Americans have contributed a great number of innovations (new ideas) which have shaped America as we know it.

Scientist George Washington Carver is credited with devising more than 300 different uses for peanuts, including peanut butter, and Dr. Charles Richard Drew initiated the idea of blood banks and the system for the long term preservation of blood plasma. These innovations and others significantly improved the way of life for people all over the world.

Innovation is the act or process of introducing new ideas, devices or methods. American history is full of African-American innovators who have created products that have improved life for others. Write about an African-American innovator who has helped make Florida a great place to live, work, and play.

6th, 7th & 8th Grade essays should address the following topic:

Florida is a great place to live, work, and visit because of beautiful weather, fun attractions and a robust economy. The business-friendly environment encourages innovation and job creation. Throughout history, African Americans have made significant achievements in innovation.

Scientist George Washington Carver is credited with developing more than 300 different uses for peanuts, including peanut butter, and Dr. Charles Richard Drew initiated the idea of blood banks and the system for the long-term preservation of blood plasma. These innovations and others have significantly improved the way of life for people all over the world.

From the traffic light to the fountain pen, African-American innovation often plays a significant role in your daily life. *Write about an African-American innovator who has helped make Florida a great place to live, work, and visit.*



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9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grade essays should address the following topic:

Florida is a great place to live, work, and visit because of beautiful weather, fun attractions and a robust economy. The business-friendly environment encourages innovation and job creation. Throughout history, African Americans have made significant achievements in innovation.

Scientist George Washington Carver is credited with developing more than 300 different uses for peanuts, including peanut butter, and Dr. Charles Richard Drew initiated the idea of blood banks and the system for the long-term preservation of blood plasma. These innovations and others have significantly improved the way of life for people all over the world.

Every community in Florida has innovators who have made an impact – both large and small— that have helped shape our state. *Write about an African-American who, through innovation, has made a significant contribution to the state of Florida.*

Official Rules and Guidelines, Part 2 Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

Each student may enter only one essay, no longer than 500 words.

Labeling Requirements: Essays must include student's name, home address, telephone number, school the student attends, grade level, title of the essay, and a word count. Essays must be no longer than 500 words in length and should be typed.

Public Disclosure: The Florida Public Records Act, located in Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, generally requires that all activities, including this contest, are open to the public. Therefore, all aspects of your involvement in this contest, including your artwork, will be subject to public disclosure.

Awards: Winners will receive a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Winners will receive awards at the Governor's Black History Month celebration to be held in Tallahassee on Monday, February 16, 2015. Reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and one immediate family member.

In addition to the 500-word essay, each student must also submit each of the following:

A letter of recommendation from an educator (teacher/principal/coach) or professional (employer/community organizer) describing why the student is worthy to receive a scholarship and how he/she stands out from his/her peers.

A 200-250 word personal essay of why the student believes he/she is deserving of the scholarship and what his/her plans are for the future.

A brief, one to two sentence response conveying what the student has done recently, during the past six months, to give back to his/her community.



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Essay Contest Checklist

Essay

Typed

Responds to prompt for appropriate grade level

No longer than 500 words

Information included on essay:

Student's name

Telephone number

School student attends

Grade level

Title of essay

Word count

Additional items:

Completed, legible entry form

Signed Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver

Letter of recommendation from educator or professional

Personal essay (200-250 words)

Brief response conveying what the student has done during the past six months to give back to his/her community

Mailed in time to be received by 5:00 p.m. EDT on January 21, 2015



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Entry Form and Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver Form Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

Student Name:		Grade:	
Title of Essay:		Word Count:	
Home Mailing Address:		Age:	
City:	State: Florida	Zip Code:	
Home Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i>			
Parent/Legal Guardian Name:			
Parent/Legal Guardian Cell Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i>		Parent/Legal Guardian E-Mail Address:	
School Name:		County:	
School Mailing Address:			
City:	State: Florida	Zip Code:	
School Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i>			

Release Statement:

As parent or guardian, I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not his or her own, the essay will be subject to disqualification.

I, _____,
(Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian), hereby certify the following:

1. I am the parent/legal guardian of _____
2. My child is currently a legal resident of Florida.

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature

Date