



## Florida Black History Month 2016

*"Honoring African American Heroes"*

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

Print Form

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 2, 2016.

**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 25, 2016. (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.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** essays should address the following topic:

American history is full of African American heroes who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect Floridians and people all over the world. Veterans, military members, law enforcement officers and first responders are heroes who have selflessly risked their lives to ensure the safety of others.

Examples:

- Fort Mose in St. Augustine was home to the first free African American settlement and militia in North America in 1738.
- There were 125,000 African Americans who fought overseas in World War II like Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and became the first African American general in the United States Air Force.
- More recently, Major General Michael Calhoun took command of Florida's National Guard this year, the first African American to hold this position in Florida.

*Using several sources with varying points of view, write about an African American hero, past or present, who has helped make Florida a safe place to live, work and raise a family.*

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** essays should address the following topic:

American history is full of African American heroes who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect Floridians and people all over the world. Veterans, military members, law enforcement officers and first responders are heroes who have selflessly risked their lives to ensure the safety of others.

Examples:

- Fort Mose in St. Augustine was home to the first free African American settlement and militia in North America in 1738.
- There were 125,000 African Americans who fought overseas in World War II like Benjamin O.



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Davis, Jr., who attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and became the first African American general in the United States Air Force.

- More recently, Major General Michael Calhoun took command of Florida's National Guard this year, the first African American to hold this position in Florida.

*Using several sources with varying points of view, write about an African American hero, past or present, who has helped make Florida a safe place to live, work and raise a family. Write your essay in a way that encourages the reader to continue to explore the topic further.*

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade** essays should address the following topic:

American history is full of African American heroes who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect Floridians and people all over the world. Veterans, military members, law enforcement officers and first responders are heroes who have selflessly risked their lives to ensure the safety of others.

Examples:

- Fort Mose in St. Augustine was home to the first free African American settlement and militia in North America in 1738.
- There were 125,000 African Americans who fought overseas in World War II like Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and became the first African American general in the United States Air Force.
- More recently, Major General Michael Calhoun took command of Florida's National Guard this year, the first African American to hold this position in Florida.

*Using several sources with varying points of view, write about an African American hero, past or present, who has helped make Florida a safe place to live, work and raise a family. Write your essay in a way that demonstrates a deep understanding of the topic and historical context.*

### 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 Thursday, February 18, 2016. Reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and one immediate family member.



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**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 25, 2016



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

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