

Florida Black History Month
“Past Pioneers + Present Role Models = a Brighter Future”

Governor Charlie Crist’s Black History Month Essay Contest
Official Rules and Guidelines

Grades 4 - 12

Governor Charlie Crist’s Black History Month Essay Contest is open to all grade 4-12 students in the state of Florida. Three winners will be selected: one elementary (4-5) student, one middle (6-8) student and one high school (9-12) student. Winners will be notified by **February 12, 2009**.

- Entries must be mailed to Executive Office of the Governor: Black History Month Committee, 400 S. Monroe Street, Suite LL10, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 **and postmarked by Friday, February 6, 2009**.
- Essays should address the following topic: **“The recent election of our nation’s first black president demonstrates how far racial equality has advanced since the Emancipation Proclamation was penned by Abraham Lincoln 146 years ago. In his acceptance speech, our new president-elect encouraged all citizens to work together for our nation’s continued growth and prosperity. As a citizen of Florida, one of the nation’s most diverse and culturally rich states, what will you do to contribute to a brighter future for Florida and all its citizens?”**
- Each student may enter only one essay.
- Essays should be no longer than 500 words in length, and should be typed or hand written in print only. No cursive writing will be accepted.
- A completed parental waiver form must accompany each essay. The parental waiver can be obtained by logging onto the Governor’s Black History Month Web site at www.floridablackhistory.com.
- Essays submitted must include contestant’s name, home address, telephone number, school the student attends, grade level and title of the essay.
- Winners will receive a four-year full tuition scholarship to any Florida state college or university of their choice, provided by Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Winners must be legal residents to meet all scholarship requirements.
- Winners will be awarded their scholarships at the Governor’s Black History Month celebration to be held in Tallahassee in February 2009. Travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and two immediate family members.

Contact the Governor’s Office at (850) 410-0501 for any further questions.

Parental Waiver
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Student Name:

Grade Level:

Name of School:

Home Mailing Address:

Home Telephone Number:

Work Telephone Number:

Cell Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Release Statement:

As parent, I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay, and has followed all the guidelines and regulations stated above. 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.

Signature, parent name and contact phone number:

Parent Signature

Parent Name (print)

Parent Telephone Number