



2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

➤ ELIGIBILITY

The Essay Contest is open to any student in grades 6 through 12.

➤ DATES

The contest opens on February 1, 2023 and ends on April 5, 2023.

Winners will be announced as part of the “*Walk Through Living History*” Day in the Park, on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at Speed Spencer Stephens Park in Tallahassee, FL. Winners will be contacted prior to this date.

➤ PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Middle School – Grades 6-8
 - 1st Place - \$100.00
 - 2nd Place - \$50.00
 - 3rd Place - \$25.00

- High School – Grades 9-12
 - 1st Place - \$200.00
 - 2nd Place - \$100.00
 - 3rd Place - \$50.00

➤ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The U.S. Civil war sharply divide the American people. *The freedom of African Americans and others being held in bondage was at the central core of the conflict. A true turning point was the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which did not reach Florida until two years after its initial signing. The ideas expressed in this historical document continue to resonate throughout this country and state even today. Five months after the issuance of the Proclamation came about the formation of the United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.). By the end of the war more than 185,000 African American men had served in U.S.C.T. To learn more about the Civil War and the U.S.C.T. soldiers, consider visiting some of the following websites: American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org, American Civil War Museum – www.acwm.org, National Archives - www.archives.gov , Civil War Digital – www.civilwardigital.com and National Humanities Center – www.nationalhumanitiescenter.org. This is just a small sample of the available on-line resources.*

- **Middle School Contestants:** Throughout the Civil War, individuals wrote letters and kept journals; leaving us with first person accounts of historical events and daily life during the years 1861-1865. Pretend you are a free person of color who has decided to enlist as a Union soldier. Write your family a letter expressing why you are going to fight in the Civil War.
- **High School Contestants:** Describe the role of African American soldiers in the Civil War and the impact of their participation in securing the Union victory. Incorporate major events or social changes that occurred in the aftermath of the war and efforts to reunite the country.

➤ **REQUIREMENTS**

The submissions must meet the following requirements:

- Must be an original work with limited guidance from others.
- Must be drafted in English and submitted as a double-spaced Word or Word-friendly document.
- Must contain at least 300 words but no more than 750 words.
Of note: Word count does not include title, biographical information, or footnotes.
- Must properly identify any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
- Must properly footnote any incorporated facts or other verifiable details. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.
- **Must be accompanied by an Official Entry Form and received no later than April 5, 2023 by 11:59pm.**
- No identifying information (such as writer's name) should be on the page(s) of the actual essay or included in the content of the essay.

➤ **JUDGING**

Submissions will be judged on the following:

- Organization, Structure and References (30 points)
- Effectiveness (30 points)
- Literary style, grammar, and spelling (30 points)
- Proper Submission of the Essay Package (10 points)
- Total score possible per judge is 100 points.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

USCTArtandEssayContest@gmail.com

Subject Line: ATTN – Essay Committee

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59pm on APRIL 5, 2023