



First Lady Casey DeSantis Announces 2019 Black History Month Theme and Student Contests

Student essay contest winners will receive a 4-Year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, First Lady Casey DeSantis announced the theme and student contests for 2019 Black History Month. This year’s theme will be “*Celebrating Public Service*” to recognize and pay tribute to African-American leaders who play prominent roles in public service throughout Florida.

“Ron and I could not be more excited to join our state’s incredible students, parents, teachers and educators during Black History Month to celebrate and champion the public service of so many influential Floridians,” said **First Lady Casey DeSantis**. “Our state is blessed to have several inspirational and talented leaders who serve our communities every day. I look forward to highlighting the contributions of those individuals during Black History Month.”

First Lady DeSantis invited students to participate in academic and creative contests based on this year’s theme. Students in grades K-3 are invited to participate in an art contest while students in grades 4-12 are invited to participate in an essay contest. Additionally, students, parents, teachers and principals are invited to nominate full-time educators of all student grades for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.

About the Student Art Contest

First Lady Casey DeSantis’ Black History Month Art Contest is open to all K-3 students in Florida. Each student will submit original, two-dimensional artwork based on this year’s theme. Two winners will be selected.

About the Student Essay Contest

First Lady Casey DeSantis’ Black History Month Essay Contest is open to all 4-12 students in Florida. Each student will submit one essay no longer than 500 words based on this year’s theme. 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). Each winner will receive a 4-Year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

About the Excellence in Education Award

First Lady Casey DeSantis' Black History Month Excellence in Education Award Contest is open to all full-time educators in an elementary, middle, or high school in Florida. Three winners will be selected: one elementary school teacher (grades K-5), one middle school teacher (grades 6-8) and one high school teacher (grades 9-12). Nominations may be submitted by a principal, teacher, parent/guardian or student.

Contest Entries and Nominating Forms and Guidelines

Student contest forms and educator nomination forms must be mailed to Volunteer Florida or submitted online at www.FloridaBlackHistory.com

Volunteer Florida
Black History Month Committee
3800 Esplanade Way, Suite 180
Tallahassee, Florida 32311

All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, March 4, 2019.

For more information about the contests and to watch First Lady Casey DeSantis' welcome message for Black History Month, please visit www.FloridaBlackHistory.com

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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS' AND FIRST LADY CASEY DESANTIS' BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART AND ESSAY CONTESTS

Art Contest K-3

(Grades K-3)

Governor Ron DeSantis' and First Lady Casey DeSantis' Black History Month Art Contest is open to all K-3 students in the state of Florida.

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. Eastern Time on Monday, March 4, 2019. Emailed, scanned or faxed entries will not be accepted.** Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.

Awards: Winners will receive a prize at the Governor's Black History Month celebration to be held in Tallahassee. Reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and one immediate family member. **Two winners will be selected and notified after March 25, 2019.**

[2019 Art Contest Rules, Guidelines & Waiver Form \(.PDF\)](#)

Essay Contest

(Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12)

Governor Ron DeSantis' and First Lady Casey DeSantis' Black History Month Essay Contest is open to all 4th through 12th grade students in the state of Florida. 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).

Entry Dates: Entries can be mailed to Volunteer Florida, Black History Month Committee, 3800 Esplanade Way, Suite 180, Tallahassee, Florida 32311, or submitted electronically through the online submission form. **All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, March 4, 2019. Emailed, scanned, or faxed entries will not be accepted.** Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs. Entries submitted electronically will receive email confirmation.

Awards: Winners will receive a 4-Year Florida Prepaid College Plan scholarship provided by Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Winners will receive awards at Governor's Black History Month celebration to be held in Tallahassee. Reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and one immediate family member. **Winners will be notified after March 25, 2019.**

Contact Volunteer Florida at (850) 414-7400 for any further questions.

Official website: <http://www.floridablackhistory.com>