



## Florida Hispanic Heritage Month 2016

*"Honoring Hispanic American Heroes"*

### Governor Rick Scott & First Lady Ann Scott's Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest

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Governor Rick Scott's Hispanic Heritage 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). This year's Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15, 2016 through October 15, 2016.

#### Official Rules and Guidelines

**Eligibility:** Contestants must be Florida residents, a student in grades 4-12, and able to provide a Social Security Number.

**Entry Dates:** Entries must be mailed to Volunteer Florida, Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, 3800 Esplanade Way, Suite 180, Tallahassee, Florida 32311; faxed to 850-921-5146 *or* emailed to [HHM@VolunteerFlorida.org](mailto:HHM@VolunteerFlorida.org). **All entries must be received no later than 5:00 PM EDT on September 9, 2016.** (Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.)

**Entry Form:** Student must provide all required information requested on the entry form (entry form information 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.

**Essay Topic:** This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "Honoring Hispanic American Heroes." Florida has a proud history of brave men and women who have protected our cities, natural resources, and residents. Serving in our state or overseas, Hispanic American veterans, military members, law enforcement officers, and first responders have selflessly risked their lives to ensure the safety of others. See examples and specific grade level topics below.

*Example #1:*

In 1864, United States Navy Seaman, John Ortega, was the first Hispanic sailor to receive the United States Medal of Honor. This distinction is the nation's highest military honor and awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. John Ortega was born in Spain and immigrated to Pennsylvania where he joined the Union Navy during the Civil War. He distinguished himself aboard the USS Saratoga participating in the Union's South Atlantic Blockade.

*Example #2:*

The decade following the Civil War saw the first Hispanic American graduate from the prestigious United States Naval Academy. After graduation, Robert Files Lopez explored Alaska aboard the USS Thetis, served under Admiral Dewey during the Spanish-American War, and was recalled from retirement to contribute on the home front during World War I.



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**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade** essays should address the following topic using the above examples:

American history is full of Hispanic-American heroes who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect Floridians and people all over the world. *Using several sources with varying points of view, write about a Hispanic-American hero who has helped make Florida a safe place to live, work, and learn.*

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade** essays should address the following topic using the above examples:

American history is full of Hispanic-American heroes who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect Floridians and people all over the world. *Using several sources with varying points of view, write about a Hispanic-American hero who has helped make Florida a safe place to live, work and learn. Write your essay in a way that encourages the reader to continue to explore the topic further.*

**9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade** essays should address the following topic using the above examples:

American history is full of Hispanic-American heroes who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect Floridians and people all over the world. *Synthesize information from several sources and write about a Hispanic-American hero who has helped make Florida a safe place to live, work and learn. Write your essay in a way that demonstrates a deep understanding of the topic.*



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Each student may enter only one essay, no longer than 500 words. **The essay must be the student's original work, with plagiarism resulting in immediate disqualification.** Students should properly reference any previously published work. A suggested reference sheet is provided at [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/) that shows examples of proper citations.

**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 essay, will be subject to public disclosure.

**Awards:** Winners will receive a 4-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Winners will receive awards at the Governor's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration to be held in Tallahassee during Hispanic Heritage Month. 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 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 or she stands out from his or her peers.
- A 200-250 word personal essay of why the student believes he or she is deserving of the scholarship and what his or her plans are for the future.
- A brief, one to two sentence response conveying what the student has done over the last six months to give back to his or her community.



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#### Essay Contest Checklist

Essay:

- Responds to prompt for appropriate grade level
- Typed
- No longer than 500 words
- Use of previously published works properly referenced (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>)

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 over the last six months to give back to his or her community

**Entries must arrive no later than 5:00 PM EDT on September 9, 2016.** Mail entries to Volunteer Florida Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, 3800 Esplanade Way, Suite 180, Tallahassee, Florida 32311, fax to 850-921-5146 or email to [HHM@VolunteerFlorida.org](mailto:HHM@VolunteerFlorida.org). Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.



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“Honoring Hispanic American Heroes”

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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:

- I am the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_
- My child is currently a legal resident of Florida.

**Parent/Legal Guardian Signature**

**Date**