Florida Hispanic Heritage Month 2019
Governor Ron DeSantis’ and First Lady Casey DeSantis’
Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest
“Celebrating Public Service: Hispanic Heritage Month 2019”

Official Rules and Guidelines
Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12
Governor Ron DeSantis’ and First Lady Casey DeSantis’ Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest is open to all students attending any Florida school in grades 4-12 (public, charter, private, home or virtual). 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).

Eligibility: Contestants must be Florida residents, attend school in Florida, and able to provide a Social Security Number. Each student may enter only one essay, written in English, no longer than 500 words.

Entry Dates: Entries can be mailed to Volunteer Florida, Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, 1545 Raymond Diehl Road, Suite 250, Tallahassee, Florida 32308, or submitted electronically at www.floridahispanicheritage.com. All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, September 13, 2019. (Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.) Entries submitted electronically will receive email confirmation.

Entry Form: All information requested on the entry form must be provided 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.

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, written in English, 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 the student’s involvement in this contest, including the 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. Reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and one immediate family member. Winners will be notified after October 4, 2019. Once the winners are announced, the decision is final.

In addition to the 500-word essay, each student must also submit each of the following:

☐ A letter of recommendation (no more than 250 words) from an educator (teacher/principal/coach) or professional (employer/community or business leader) describing why the student is worthy to receive a scholarship and how he/she stands out from his/her peers. Letters of recommendation sent separately, via mail or electronically, will not be accepted.

☐ A 200-250 word personal essay of why the student believes he/she is deserving of the scholarship, what his/her plans are for the future, and what he or she has done recently – during the past six months – to give back to his/her community.
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Essays should address the following topic:

“Celebrating Public Service: Hispanic Heritage Month 2019”

There are many examples throughout our state and nation’s history of Hispanic-Americans who dedicated their lives to public service. Write about an influential Hispanic-American who displayed the highest ideals of public service. The subject of the essay does not have to be a Floridian.

Some examples are:

- José Palmi y Jesús Rodríguez – Masters of Venezuelan Harp
- Florida Lt. Governor Jeanette Núñez – Florida’s first Hispanic Female Lt. Governor
- Maria Andreu – First Hispanic Lighthouse Keeper in St. Augustine
- Maurice Ferré – First Hispanic Mayor of Miami
- France Anne-Dominic Córdova – Youngest person and first woman to hold the position of NASA Chief Scientist
- Columba Bush – Former First Lady of the State of Florida
- Iván Rodríguez – Baseball player
- Jenniffer González-Colón – Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico

Grades 4-5
Using several sources with varying points of view, write about a Hispanic-American who displayed the highest ideals of public service.

Be sure to properly cite your sources on a separate page.
(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/)

Grades 6-8
Using several sources with varying points of view, write about a Hispanic-American who displayed the highest ideals of public service. Write your essay in a way that encourages the reader to continue to explore the topic further.

Be sure to properly cite your sources on a separate page.
(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/)

Grades 9-12
Using several sources with varying points of view, write about a Hispanic-American who displayed the highest ideals of public service. Write your essay in a way that demonstrates a deep understanding of the topic and historical context.

Be sure to properly cite your sources on a separate page.
(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/)
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Essay Contest Checklist
- Responds to prompt for appropriate grade level
- No longer than 500 words
- Written in English
- Typed
- Use of previously published works properly referenced on a separate page
  (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/)

Information included on essay:
- Title of essay
- Word count
- Student’s name
- Telephone number
- School student attends
- Grade level

Additional items to be included and submitted together in the entry packet:
- Completed, legible entry form
- Signed Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver
- Letter of recommendation (no more than 250 words) from educator or professional Letters of recommendation sent separately, via mail or electronically, will not be accepted.
- Personal essay including community service statement (200-250 words)
- Submitted in time to be received by Volunteer Florida by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, September 13, 2019.

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All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, September 13, 2019. (Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.) Entries submitted electronically will receive email confirmation.

For more information, visit www.floridahispanicheritage.com or contact Volunteer Florida at (850) 414-7400.
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Entry Form and Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver Form
Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of Essay:</td>
<td>Word Count:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Mailing Address:</td>
<td>Age:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>State: Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Phone Number: <em>(including area code)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Legal Guardian Name:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Legal Guardian Cell Phone Number: <em>(including area code)</em></td>
<td>Parent/Legal Guardian E-Mail Address:</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Name:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Mailing Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>State: Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Phone Number: <em>(including area code)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent/Guardian Release Statement:
I am the parent/legal guardian of ____________________________________________________________
(Print name of student, hereafter referred to as “my child”)

As the legal parent or guardian, I acknowledge that my child has written the submitted essay.

I, _______________________________________________________,
(Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian), hereby certify the following:

1. My child is currently a legal resident of Florida, a Florida elementary student (grades 4-12), and is enrolled in a Florida school (including public, charter, private, home or virtual).

2. I give permission for my child to enter his/her essay in the 2019 Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest.
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3. I understand that all rights to the submitted essay, including copyright, will be owned by the Executive Office of the Governor and not by me or my child. This transfer of rights will allow the Office, at a minimum, to reproduce, distribute, and display the essay as appropriate.

4. I give the Executive Office of the Governor permission to use my child’s name, photograph, voice, video image, biographical information, and his/her essay for promotional purposes without compensation or prior notice.

5. I agree to release and hold harmless the Executive Office of the Governor and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from my child’s participation in this contest, including infringement of intellectual property rights. The Executive Office of the Governor and its employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising and promotional agencies assume no responsibility or liability for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind arising in whole or in part from this contest. I understand that once the winners are announced, the decision is final.

6. I have read the official rules of this contest, and I further certify my child has followed these rules and is eligible to participate in this contest.

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature

Date