



Iowa Juneteenth Observance

Program of The Des Moines Urban Experience
“34 Years Serving the Iowa Community”

www.iowajuneteenth.org
Committee Chair: Nakia Ewing
Email: Nakia Ewing at nakiae78@gmail.com

2024 Iowa Juneteenth Observance Essay Contest

Deadline: April 15, 2024

ESSAY QUESTION:

“Who is a person from the past that has impacted your life and how will your learnings from them shape your future?”

ELIGIBILITY:

The essay contest is statewide and open to “all students” enrolled in grades 9 through 11. We encourage essayists to enlist the guidance of a teacher or other adult when completing the essay. The essay contest serves as an inspirational vehicle for youth to strengthen appreciation for: 1) scholarship, 2) cultural diversity; and 3) the enhancement of community relations.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Essays must be a minimum of 500 words and not exceed 700 words;
2. Essays may be typed or word-processed (double spaced);
3. Essayists must use at least 5 sources of information from books, newspapers, magazines, or websites which must be listed (cited) on a separate page and submitted with the essay;
4. Submit a color photo (portrait style – headshot), and
5. Complete the Student Information Form provided with this application which can be accessed at www.iowajuneteenth.com

TOP HONORS:

Each of the three winning essayists will receive a trophy. In addition, the first-place winner will receive a \$1,000.00 cash prize, the second-place winner will receive a \$500.00 cash prize, and the third-place winner will receive a \$250.00 cash prize. The trophies and cash prizes are presented at an Iowa Juneteenth Observance awards ceremony in Des Moines (TBA) and winning essayists must be present to receive their trophies/cash prizes.

Note:

Students who are immediate family members or relatives of the: 1) Iowa Juneteenth Observance Planning Committee; The Urban Experience Magazine, or Drake University administration, faculty, or staff - are ineligible for the essay contest.

DEADLINE: Submit your essay, along with the Student Information Form, your photo, and your list of reading sources online or by email, on or before April 15, 2024



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Student First & Last Name:

Student Full Address:

Parent or Guardian First & Last Name?

Parent Phone::

School Name:

School Full Address:

Student Grade Level:

9th 10th 11th