Texas History Essay Contest

The Moses Austin Chapter of the Sons of The Republic of Texas and Celebrate Texas, Inc. have partnered together to invite graduating high school senior students to participate in our first annual “Texas History Essay Contest”.

Scholarships will be awarded to three winners. A noted author of Texas history will judge the essays for our winners:

First Prize $1500.00
Second Prize $1200.00
Third Prize $1000.00

The topic of the essay is:

"THE BATTLE OF COLETO CREEK AND THE GOLIAD MASSACRE"

- All entries must be received and postmarked on or before April 15, 2016 to be eligible for the contest.
- We must receive a minimum of 15 essay entries into this contest in order to judge and award scholarship(s) to graduating high school senior students in this round.
The Moses Austin Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and Celebrate Texas, Inc. look forward to working with you to share the rich history of our Great State of Texas!

Complete instructions are enclosed.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Texas history!

Mike Gissell

Mike Gissell
President
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Sons of the Republic of Texas
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The Sons of the Republic of Texas and Celebrate Texas have a shared purpose to educate and to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved the independence of Texas, set the young 'Republic upon its high course among the nations of the world; and finally secured its admission as the greatest state of the United States of America.
"MOSES AUSTIN Chapter #12 AND CELEBRATE TEXAS"

SPONSORS: The Sons of the Republic of Texas & Celebrate Texas, Inc. have proudly joined together!

ELIGIBILITY:
Graduating seniors in Travis County and Central Texas high schools may enter and are encouraged to participate.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:
The authors of the three best essays submitted will be the scholarship winners if the essays warrant. A minimum of 15 essays must be entered and received by the deadline date in order for essays to be judged. In the event of a tie, the winners will be determined based on academic achievements. The winners will be recognized by The Sons of the Republic of Texas and Celebrate Texas, Inc. The Awards will be scholarships to attend the college of each winners' choice, and selected winners must provide evidence of acceptance into a college or university in order to receive the award.

FIRST AWARD $1,500.00
SECOND AWARD $1,200.00
THIRD AWARD $1,000.00

PURPOSE:
The uniqueness of Texas and Texans is recognized around the world. The purpose of the Texas History Essay Contest program is:
(First) To encourage students to explore the pioneer spirit of Texas on the early frontier, their methods of accomplishing their goals under very difficult circumstances, and the results of their efforts that we can see today.
(Second) To assist and encourage graduating seniors to pursue their education at an institution of higher learning. It is hoped that the topic chosen will inspire the thinking of our Youth, who will assume the responsibilities of leadership? And influence local, state, national and international policies and laws in the future.

TOPIC:
"The Battle of Coleto and Goliad Massacre"

RULES:
Essays are to be no fewer than 1200 words in length (excluding endnotes and bibliography) and must be computer generated, double spaced, on one side only of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Quotations from other writers are encouraged but must be acknowledged and should be used with discretion. Essays will be screened for plagiarism using standard software designed for this purpose. The application must be filled out completely, including academic information.

1. Each contestant must submit an original and two (2) photo copies of their Essay for the judges (three in all) with contestant's name, address, phone number, email address and year of the contest.

A copy of the application should be attached to each of the five (3) copies of the Essay submitted.

The student must follow the format of the Chicago Manual of Style or Turabian's Manual for Writers. Endnotes should be listed on one page and all references cited should be on a separate page. Information must come from a reliable, published source (books/magazines) and students must acknowledge the author and publisher. Two internet sources are acceptable. All Essays submitted become the exclusive property of "The Sons of the Republic of Texas" and "Celebrate Texas, Inc."

CRITERIA:
The criteria used by the judges in selecting the winners will be based on a system that accurately scores the essays, such as historical accuracy and content, writing quality (spelling & grammar), research references, bibliography, end notes and whether the student followed instructions. In the event of a tie, the winners will be determined based on academic achievements.

In the administration of the Texas History Essay Contest, The Moses Austin Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and Celebrate Texas, Inc. do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, color, disability, nationality or ethnicity.

Deadline: All Entries must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2016. We must receive 15 entries in order to judge this contest and award scholarships.

Please mail to: C/O Michael Gissell, 213 Ellebracht Drive, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
TEXAS HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

TIPS FOR WINNING ESSAYS 2016

1. Set your goal to write a historically accurate essay following the specific instructions provided.
2. Start early and schedule time for search and writing. (January – March)
3. Thoroughly research your topic using books, newspapers, magazines and don’t depend on the internet alone.
4. Only two internet sources are allowed.
5. Use your library and ask the staff for advice.
6. Visit historic sites in person and interview knowledgeable history professionals. Arrange to take a guided tour of the site.
7. Use a picture to illustrate a point in your essay if appropriate.
8. Properly give credit to your research sources in your notes and bibliography. Essay is checked for plagiarism.
9. Ask your teachers and advisors for suggestion and advice. Rewrite your essay to make your final improvements. Submit your essay well ahead of the required date

EXAMPLE OF ENDTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY TO BE USED AS GUIDE

Please Note: Many authors use multiple sources for a paragraph (see endnote 3and 4) and place the endnote at the end of the paragraph. You may not use "ibid," with multiple sources. The word "ibid" refers to a single source only; therefore, foot note 6 is correct since footnote 5 has only one source.

USING UNDERLINING:

ENDNOTES:


James, The Raven,
p.92. ibid, p.94

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name

________________________________________
First Name                     Middle Name                     Last Name

Current Mailing Address:

________________________________________
Street Address                     City                     State                     Zip

Residence Phone#:_________________; Email address:___________________________

Parent's name and address (if different from applicant) the check should be made out to in the event the applicant is one of the winners __________

The Sons of the Republic of Texas
And
Celebrate Texas

GOD BLESS TEXAS