Georgia Historical Society's Georgia Days

Black History Month Essay and Public Speaking Contest

Slavery in the Georgia Colony

"Between 1735 and 1750 Georgia was unique among Britain's American colonies, as it was the only one to attempt to prohibit black slavery as a matter of public policy. The decision to ban slavery was made by the founders of Georgia, the Trustees." - Betty Wood, *New Georgia Encyclopedia*

This original, 500 word essay should explore the following questions: Why did Oglethorpe and the Georgia Trustees ban slavery in the new colony? What were the circumstances that eventually led to the introduction of slavery in Georgia? What were the long-term effects of the British government's decision to make slavery legal in Georgia?

First Prize: Award of $500

Second Prize: Award of $250
(sponsored by the Roger Moss Family)

Third Prize: Award of $100
(sponsored by the Roger Moss Family)

Guidelines:

1. Essay contest is open to high school students.
2. Essay should be the result of student research into African-American history through books, newspaper articles, ***limited numbers*** of online sources or encyclopedia articles, and/or oral histories taken by the students themselves. Please include a bibliography.
3. Essay should be limited to 500 words.
4. Essay should be submitted ***without*** the name or school of the entrant, but accompanied by an official entry form cover sheet, available on request and at www.georgiahistory.com.
5. Essays must be received at the Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, Georgia, 31401, by 5:00 p.m. on ***Wednesday, January 23, 2008***. Entries may be hand-delivered or mailed, but ***must be received by the deadline***. Please note that this is ***not a post-mark deadline***.
6. Essays will be judged by a panel of qualified judges chosen by the contest sponsors. The judges' decisions are final.
7. The top five essays will be announced on Monday, February 4, 2008.
8. The authors of these five essays will be invited to present their essays at a public reception at the Georgia Historical Society at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2008, before a panel of judges who will determine the three winning entrants.

Teachers are invited to contact Charlie Snyder at the Georgia Historical Society (651-2125 x.40) for more information or to request additional entry forms. The entry form sent with this announcement may be duplicated as needed.

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Slavery in Colonial Georgia

Entry Form

Please do not place any identifying information, other than a title, on the essay itself. Fill out this form completely and attach it to the front of the essay. Essays must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, Georgia, 31401. Entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 2008. Please note that this is not a post mark deadline.

Student's Name: _____

Grade Level (9, 10, 11, or 12): _____

School's Name: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

City, State, and ZIP Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ School's Telephone: _____

Teacher's Full Name: _____

Parent or Guardian's Full Name(s): _____

Title of Entry: _____

Please use signatures in the spaces below:

This entry is my own original work and represents my best writing efforts.

_____
Signature of Student

This entry is the original work of the student whose name appears at the top of this form, and I am this student's parent or legal guardian.

_____
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

I am familiar with this student's writing. I have read this entry and am satisfied that it is his or her original work and represents his or her best writing efforts.

_____
Signature of Teacher