

FLORIDA

# WOMEN'S HISTORY

ESSAY CONTEST

2023



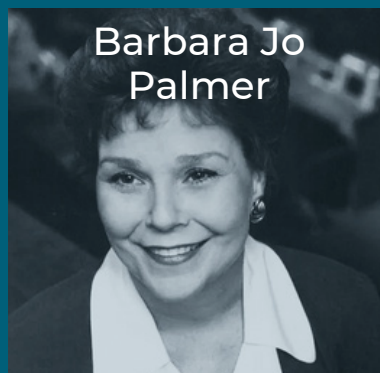
Althea Gibson



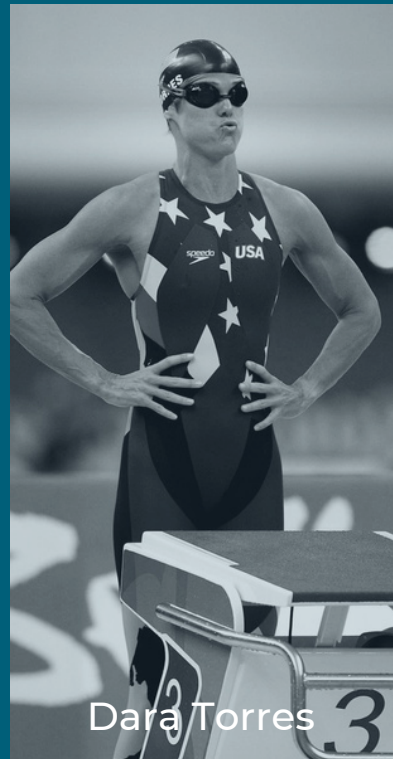
Chris Evert



Ruth Alexander



Barbara Jo  
Palmer



Dara Torres



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

**MARCH 3, 2023**

For Florida students in grades 6 - 8

**PRESENTED BY THE  
FLORIDA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

## PURPOSE

*To commemorate and honor women's history and members of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame*



Sponsored by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, the Florida Women's History essay contest is open to both boys and girls and serves to celebrate women's history and to increase awareness of the contributions made by Florida women, past and present. Celebrating women's history presents the opportunity to honor and recount stories of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments and inspires today's generations. Learning about our past allows us to build our future.

## THEME

**2023**

*"Find something that you're really interested in doing in your life. Pursue it, set goals, and commit yourself to excellence. Do the best you can."*

*– Chris Evert, Champion Women's Tennis player*

*"No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."*

It was 50 years ago that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was passed into law. These 37 words served as the groundwork to open the door of opportunity for girls, especially in sports. It took years after the passage of the law for it to begin to take hold, but it eventually led to the rise of collegiate women's athletic programs and professional leagues. Women are now making sports history, not just through their careers, but by being pioneers and breaking the glass ceiling, serving as an inspiration and paving the way for other women to follow in their footsteps.

Prompt: Since Title IX was passed 50 years ago, we have seen growth and an increase in opportunities for girls and women in sports. "Who is your favorite female athlete or sports pioneer and why do they inspire you?"

**For rules and submission guidelines, visit [fcsw.net](http://fcsw.net).**

## RULES



- Essays must be received by 5:00 pm on **March 3, 2023**. It is the desire of the Commission for all Florida Middle School students to have the opportunity to participate. Winners will be announced in March 2023.
  - Each contestant must be a legal resident of Florida at the time of submission. All Florida students in grades 6 through 8 (public, private, and home-schooled) are eligible.
  - Awards will be made in three categories: 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.
  - Essays should have a title. The title should be at the top of the first page.
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- Essays must be written in paragraph format, be between 250 and 500 words, typed using 12 point font, and double-spaced with margins set to at least one inch on all sides. Please select a legible font, such as Times New Roman. **Essays must be the original work of the student.**
  - **Do not** put your name on the essay; your name should appear on the entry form only.
  - Submissions must include a completed official Entry Form and Release Statement.
  - Essays may be submitted via e-mail to [essay@fcsweb.net](mailto:essay@fcsweb.net) (use subject line: FCSW Essay Contest.) Essays received via e-mail will be confirmed by e-mail within two business days. If a receipt is not received, please call Kim Mehr at 850-414-3531.
  - All entries are the property of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. The decision of the judges and the Commission is final.

Essays may be mailed to:

Florida Commission on the Status of Women Essay Contest  
107 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

## AWARDS & CRITERIA



Awards will be given to the first and second place winner in each of the 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade categories. **First Place: \$100; second place: \$75.** All winners and their teachers will be recognized during a special ceremony. Winning essays will be published on the FCSW website during March in recognition of Women's History Month.

### Criteria for Judging Essays

- The theme must be clearly addressed.
- Responses should be creative.
- Content must include relevant, authentic information and ideas must be fully developed and must demonstrate critical and creative thinking.
- Proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation must be consistent with accepted usage. **Please proofread your essay prior to submitting!** Engaging a teacher or other adult for review and feedback is encouraged.

## ENTRY

<b>Student Name:</b>		
<b>Title of Entry:</b>		<b>Grade:</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>		
<b>Teacher Name:</b>	<b>Teacher E-Mail Address:</b>	

## Release Statement

As parent/legal guardian, I acknowledge that my child created the submitted essay and has followed all contest guidelines and rules. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the submitted essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child's essay is not original or fails to comply with all contest rules and submission guidelines, the essay will be subject to automatic disqualification.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), am the parent/legal guardian of the individual named above and having read this release and approve of its terms, hereby certify the following:

1. I am the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_
2. My child is a legal resident of Florida and is currently enrolled in grades 6-8.
3. I give permission for my child to enter his/her essay in the 2023 Women's History Essay Contest.
4. 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.
5. I give the Florida Commission on the Status of Women permission to use, reproduce, reprint, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, alter, edit, and/or display the submitted essay.
6. I give the Florida Commission on the Status of Women permission to use my child's submission and/or my child's name, photograph, voice, video image, biographical information, and his/her essay for promotional purposes including but not limited to, print, radio, television, and Internet promotion, without compensation or prior notice.

I hereby release the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, as well as their employees, commissioners, officers, successors, assigns, licensees, and legal representatives, from any and all liability associated with my and my child's participation in this activity, and I agree not to assert any claim of any nature whatsoever against anyone relating to this activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**FLORIDA COMMISSION**  
**on the STATUS of WOMEN**

107 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

(850) 414-3300 / [ESSAY@FCSW.NET](mailto:ESSAY@FCSW.NET)  
[FCSW.NET](http://FCSW.NET) / [FLWOMENSHALLOFFAME.ORG](http://FLWOMENSHALLOFFAME.ORG)