

FLORIDA

2024

# WOMEN'S HISTORY

ESSAY CONTEST



FLORIDA COMMISSION  
*on the STATUS of WOMEN*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024

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

**2024**

*"Love cannot remain by itself — it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service."*

*– Mother Teresa*

**PUBLIC SERVICE** takes many forms, driven by the goal of helping others. Public servants may be involved in:

- Government (local, state, and federal employees and elected officials);
- Public safety (firefighters, police officers, paramedics, civilian and military people, astronauts);
- Public health (doctors, nurses, caregivers, and administrators);
- Public works (engineers, conservationists, bus drivers, park rangers, lifeguards);
- Public education (teachers, librarians, scientists, researchers, and administrators);
- Community support (providing support and assistance to community members who are in crisis, homeless or hungry – typically through volunteerism and not-for-profit organizations);
- Any person who serves their community for the public good.

**Prompt:** Write about an area of public service that appeals to you, and why. Use examples from Florida Women's Hall of Fame members and/or women in your local community who inspired your decision.

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

## RULES



- Essays must be received by 5:00 pm on **February 29, 2024**. 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 2024. 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@fcsww.net](mailto:essay@fcsww.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><br>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><br><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><br>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 202 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)