



# The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest



**What:** The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest.

**When:** Contest ends Monday, February 15, 2021.

**Where:** Winners announced at the 21<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month (Virtual) Gala on Saturday, February 27, 2021 (6pm to 9pm) at the Salamander Resort & Spa, 500 N. Pendleton St, Middleburg, Virginia 20117.

**Who:** All 5th Grade Students currently enrolled in any Virginia elementary school (or home schooled).

## The Winners Receive

**First Prize:           \$250**

**Second Prize:       \$150**

**Third Prize:         \$75**

- Monetary gifts from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners are announced during the Gala. They will also receive one complimentary (online) connection to attend the Virginia Black History Month (Virtual) Gala.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will receive a large poster-size check with their name and winning amount.
- All winners will receive a complimentary gift from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- All will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.

Cover Sheet Information  
(Must Accompany Your Essay Submission)

Essay Title:

Name:

Permanent Address:

Home Phone Number:

Contact E-mail Address:

Gender: \_\_\_Male \_\_\_Female

Grade (as of fall of 2020):

School Name & Address (as of fall of 2020):

## Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students currently enrolled in any Virginia Elementary School (or home schooled).
2. Contest ends Monday, February 15, 2021.
3. Writing entries should be limited to two pages plus cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be written by the student.
5. The entry must be neatly handwritten on standard ruled note paper.
6. Include the title of your entry on both the first page of the essay and on the cover sheet.
7. **HOW TO ENTER:** The essay should pertain to the following topic:

**Topic:** This year's Black History Month Theme is the Black Family. According to the Association for The Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), "the role of the black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race." **Question:** What does family mean to you? Please describe a family, **past or present** (e.g., *The King Family or the Obama Family*), **real or fictional** (e.g., *The Carter Family or the Huxtable Family*) that you admire? You may also select a person from within your own family that you admire?

8. **Judging Criteria:** The three winners will be selected by a neutral judging panel and will be rated in three areas: writing skill, story content and originality.
9. The list of panel members is **Ms. Pamela Nephew** (College Professor), **Mr. Larry Marks** (High School Principal) and **Mr. Eugene Williams**, (Author & High School Principal). Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decision of the judges. All decisions are final. The top three winners will be notified by mail or phone call no later than Monday, February 22, 2021.
10. Send the enclosed cover sheet with each entry. Ensure you include the following:
  - Name and title of the entry
  - Student's permanent home address and school address (if applicable)
  - Telephone number(s)

**Note: Mail entries to: The Virginia Black History Month Children's Writing Contest, PO Box 41924, FREDERICKSBURG VA 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 15, 2021.**

11. The writing entry with the highest achievement will receive the first-place award; next highest achievement will receive the second-place award, and the third highest achievement will receive the third-place award.
12. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented (online) during our Annual Black History Month (Virtual) Gala on **Saturday, February 27, 2021.** We would like for the winning contestant to be present (online) at the (Virtual) Gala. The winner(s) will be given free complimentary online access to attend the Virtual Gala. The cost for additional online connections is \$25 to \$45 dollars. Visit our website at [www.vabhma.com](http://www.vabhma.com) for more details.