

The Virginia Black History Month Association



Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence

The 2023 Black History Month National Theme:
"Black Resistance"



Ms. Audrey Jones

What: The Virginia Black History Month Association **Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence**

When: The scholarship application deadline is **Monday, February 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Where: The **23rd Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 25, 2023** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center**, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria VA 22202.

Who: All African-American High School students enrolled in any **Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria City Public High Schools, Spotsylvania County Public Schools** or **Fredericksburg City Public Schools** in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.

Why: To honor the legacy of educator and community leader Ms. Audrey Jones.

The Monetary Award
\$500.00

The Winner Will Receive:

- A monetary award from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- Two complimentary tickets to the Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- A large poster-size check with his/her name and \$500 dollars written on the check.
- A complimentary family portrait with a professional photographer at the Gala.
- A Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.

Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence Application

Applicant's Information

1. Applicant's Name: _____
2. Applicant's Home Address: _____
3. Applicant's Home Phone Number: (____) _____
4. Applicant's Contact E-mail Address: _____
5. Applicant's Signature & Date: _____
6. Parent's Cell Phone Number: (____) _____

Applicant's School Verification Information (Completed by School Counselor)

7. Applicant's High School: _____
 - Applicant's Grade (as of fall of 2022): _____
 - Applicant's Grade Point Average (as of fall of 2022): _____
 - Applicant's School Activities:

 - Applicant's Plans After High School: (*check one*) 4 yr. college: 2 yr. college:
 - School Counselor's Name: _____
 - School Counselor's Phone Number: _____
 - School Counselor's Signature: _____
 - Date: _____

Applicant's Community and Civic Activities

1. Civic Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

2. Civic Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

3. Civic Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

4. Civic Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

5. Leadership Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

6. Leadership Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

7. Leadership Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

8. Leadership Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

9. Sports Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

10. Sports Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

11. Sports Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

12. Sports Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

13. Music Activity: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

The Rules

1. This scholarship is open to All African-American High School students enrolled in any Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria City Public High Schools, Spotsylvania County Public Schools or Fredericksburg City Public Schools in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
2. The scholarship application deadline ends on **Monday, February 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**
3. Entries should be limited to two pages plus the application form and cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be signed by the student, school counselor and civic representative(s).
5. The entry must be submitted on time. (No late entries will be accepted)
6. Include the title of your entry on both the first page of the essay and on the cover sheet.

How to Enter: In 500 words or less, write your response to the questions below:

Essay: Black Resistance: To promote awareness of the myriad of issues and activities facing the black community, black media outlets were developed including radio shows, podcasts, **newspapers** (i.e., Chicago Defender, Chicago Bee, the Afro, The California Eagle, Omaha Star, the Crisis, etc.). Ida B. Wells used publications to contest the scourge of lynching. These outlets were pivotal in sharing the successes and challenges of resistance movements. (ASALH, 2022)

Consider the following scenario: You are a **part-time** freelance writer with a passion for stories concerning African American culture, history and social justice. **Question(s):** Which national story in **2022** concerning African Americans impacted you the most? Tell us the who, what, when, where and why of the story. If you were the first to break the news about the story, then identify two Black Newspapers that currently exist today that you would sell your story. Explain why you choose those two newspapers. Which of the two newspapers would you work for if they offered you a **full-time** position? Why?

7. **Judging Criteria & Rules:** The winners are selected by a neutral judging panel and rated in five areas:

a. **Criteria**

- (1) All African-American High School students enrolled in any Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria City Public High Schools, Spotsylvania County Public Schools or Fredericksburg City Public Schools in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
- (2) Good Academic Standing
- (3) Participation in the local community through civic programs and volunteerism
- (4) Plans to attend college after graduation from High School
- (5) Quality of Essay

b. **Rules:** The judging will take place under the supervision of **Dr. Sherry Springs**, Human Systems Engineer for the Department of the Navy. She will be joined by other community leaders to determine the winner of the scholarship.

- (1) Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges.
- (2) All decisions are final.
- (3) The winner will be notified by phone call by Monday, February 20, 2023.

8. Send a cover sheet with your entry and include the following information: Title of the entry, name, home address, applicant phone number, parent name, and cell phone number.
9. **Note:** Mail all entries to: The Virginia Black History Month Association Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence, P.O. Box 41924, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023.
10. The Gala Details: The Gala Details: Awards will be presented during **the 23rd Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 25, 2023 (Please arrive by 5:15pm)**. We would like for the winning contestants to be present at the Gala. Each winner and one parent will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend. Additional tickets are available for purchase.

**The Virginia Black History Month Association
Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence Rubric**

Description	Criteria	Score
Completed Application	Application must be completed in full to be considered.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Application delivered <u>on time</u> before the cutoff date	Must be postmarked before 5:00pm February 13, 2023	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Essay Submitted with Application	Received essay and application	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
The Word Count Limitation	500 words or less	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Clearly Address the Essay Topic (Max 20 points)	Question(s): Which national story in 2022 concerning African Americans impacted you the most? Tell us the who, what, when, where and why of the story. If you were the first to break the news about the story, then identify two Black Newspapers that currently exist today that you would sell your story. Explain why you choose those two newspapers. Which of the two newspapers would you work for if they offered you a full-time position? Why?	Essay Topic Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answered All Questions– 25 points • Answered Most Questions – 15 points • Answered Half the Questions – 5 points • Vaguely answered – 5 points
Grade Point Average (GPA) Report Card/Transcripts (Max 20 points)	Will accept the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application w/signatures • Official Sealed High School Transcripts • Official Report Card • Signed Letter from the School 	Grade Point Average <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 GPA – 25 points • 3.5 GPA – 20 points • 3.0 GPA – 15 points • 2.5 GPA – 10 points
Spelling and Proper Grammar (Max 20 points)	Spelling and Proper Grammar	Spelling and Grammar Errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or Less Errors – 25 points • Between 5 – 7 errors – 20 points • Between 8 – 10 errors – 15 points • Between 11– 13 errors – 10 points • More than 14 errors – 5 points
Community or Civic Activities (Max 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Hospitals, Scouting, or Boys & Girls Club 	2.5 points for each activity
Leadership Experience (Max 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Student Government, Class President, or Team Captain 	2.5 points for each activity
Sports Activities (Max 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Football, Soccer, or Swimming 	One point for each activity

Disclaimer: Members of the VaBHMA Scholarship Selection Committee, may not participate in the selection process if their children, grandchildren, or any relatives plan to apply for any VaBHMA scholarships. They must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and have their names removed from the application.