

The Virginia Black History Month Association



Jennie Serepta Dean Scholarship of Merit

The 2024 Black History Month National Theme:
"African Americans and the Arts"



Ms. Jennie Serepta Dean

What: The Virginia Black History Month Association **Jennie Serepta Dean Scholarship of Merit.**

When: The scholarship application deadline is **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Where: The **24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 24, 2024** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park Hotel**, 3111 Fairview Park Dr, Falls Church, VA 22042.

Who: All **African-American** High School students enrolled in any **Prince William County Public Schools** and **Manassas City Public Schools in Virginia** with plans to pursue higher education.

Why: To honor the legacy of missionary and educator Ms. Jennie Serepta Dean.

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.

Jennie Serepta Dean Scholarship of Merit 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 2023): _____
 - Applicant's Grade Point Average (as of fall of 2023): _____
 - 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 Prince William County Public Schools and Manassas City Public Schools in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
2. The scholarship application deadline ends on **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**
3. Entries should be limited to two pages plus the application form and cover sheet.
4. Each Community or Civic entry must be signed by the student, school counselor or any representative.
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: African-American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, **music**, architecture, culinary, and other forms of cultural expression, the African-American influence has been paramount. African-American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. (ASALH, 2023).

Consider the following scenario: As one of the nation's leading musicologists, you have been tasked with hosting a concert at the White House during Black History Month. Your area of specialty is the influence of the African-American experience on the music industry, and your assignment is to book three leading artists within the music industry to perform music within three different genres of music impacted by the African American experience.

Question(s):

1. Which three genres of music will you select and why?
2. Which three artists will you bring to the White House to perform and why?
3. Which song will you task each artist to perform and why?
4. Which of the three songs do you believe will leave a lasting impact on the audience and 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 Prince William County Public Schools and Manassas 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 leadership of our scholarship team. They 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 19, 2024.

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 Jennie Serepta Dean Scholarship of Merit, P.O. Box 41924, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024.
10. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented during **the 24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 24, 2024 (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
Jennie Serepta Dean Scholarship of Merit 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 12, 2024.	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 three genres of music will you select and why? Which three artists will you bring to the White House to perform and why? Which song will you task each artist to perform and why? Which of the three songs do you believe will leave a lasting impact on the audience and 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 or • 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 or • 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 or • 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.