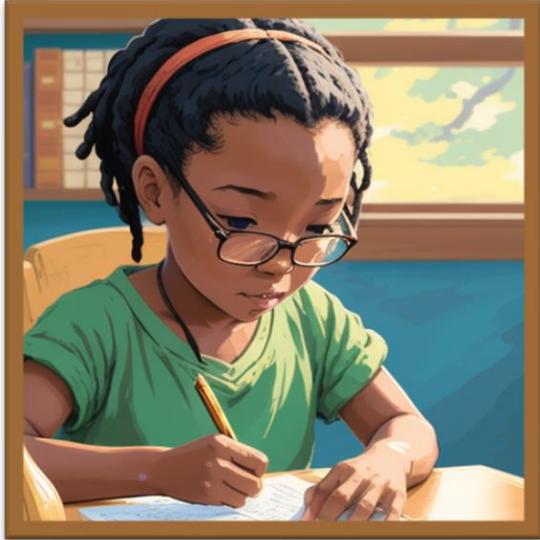


# The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest



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

**When:** Contest ends **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

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

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

## The Winners Receive

**FIRST PRIZE: \$300**

**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. All finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month 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 family portrait from our professional photographer at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- All will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- All monetary awards will be distributed on Saturday, February 24, 2024 during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.

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 2023):

School Name & Address (as of fall of 2023):

## Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students currently attending any Virginia Elementary School (or home schooled).
2. Contest ends **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:00 pm.**
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:** Next year's Black History Month Theme is **African-Americans and the Arts**. The African-American influence has been paramount in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary arts, and other forms of cultural expression. (ASALH, 2023) **Scenario:** You have been invited to an African-American Church with a potluck dinner scheduled after the service. You have been asked to bring a popular African-American dish or dessert. (e.g., sweet potato pie, black-eyed peas, fried green tomatoes, peach cobbler, collard greens, banana pudding, or hush puppies) **Question:** What are you bringing? What are the ingredients and spices used to prepare it? Explain how are you going to prepare it. Describe any family traditions with serving that dish or dessert.

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 19, 2024.**
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:** Scan and Email entries to: [President@vabhma.com](mailto:President@vabhma.com) or 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 12, 2024.**

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. Certificates will be presented during the 24<sup>th</sup> 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. In addition, the winners and one of their parents will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend the Gala. The cost of adult tickets for additional attendees is adults: \$95.00, Students: \$60 and Children: (under 12 yrs. old) \$40.00 (Note: Children 5 yrs. old and under are free).**