



FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND



2018 Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest for Grades 4-8

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services is partnering with the Charles Wright Museum of African American History to bring another quality educational program to Michigan Schools. This year's theme is "Black Girl Magic: Celebrating the power, beauty, and tenacity embodied by African American women who triumph under pressure and persevere through challenges ."

The program will include a 16-page student supplement available for delivery to schools in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and a 12-page online teacher guide. Students will explore the ways African-American Women have excelled in innovation, business, style, education, and entertainment.

In addition, students in grades 4-8 are invited to submit essays on the following topic: Black Girl Magic is a celebration of the power, beauty and tenacity embodied by African American women who triumph under pressure and persevere through challenges.

Black women like NASA Engineer, Katherine Johnson, 12-year-old beverage entrepreneur Mikaila Ulmer, actress/activist Yara Shahidi and Lupita Nyong'o are just a few examples of women who embody the talent, ingenuity, and intelligence that makes Black Girl Magic.

Think of a Black Woman who has excelled in one of the following areas?

- Innovation/Tech
- Business
- Style
- Education
- Entertainment

It can be a celebrity, teacher, politician...even your mom!

- What has this woman accomplished?
- Why do you admire her?
- What do you have in common with this individual?
- How does her story inspire you to activate your inner magic?

Contest Rules

It is strongly preferred that essays be typed. Essays are limited to two pages and must be typed in Times New Roman or Arial font, 12-point type, and double-spaced with 1" margins. No exceptions. Handwritten essays must be legibly printed, double-spaced and limited to three pages. An official entry form must be stapled to the FRONT of each essay or completed before uploading www.fordfreedom.org. NO reference can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, or community. The student's name may ONLY appear on the entry form. Any quotation or copyrighted material must be properly identified. Failure to identify copyrighted material will result in disqualification.

An entry form is attached here and also available at www.fordfreedom.org

All essays must be POSTMARKED or uploaded no later than Friday, April 13.

Mail entries to:

Charles H. Wright Museum Education Department
ATTN: Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest
315 E. Warren Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201

Or Upload to www.fordfreedom.org

Prizes

The following scholarships will be awarded for the pursuit of higher education:

- 1st Prize—\$5,000 Scholarship, Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit for ONE winner
- 2nd Prize—\$2,500 Scholarship, Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit for ONE winner
- 3rd Prize—\$1,000 Scholarship, Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit for ONE winner
- Honorable Mentions—\$250 Scholarship, Ford Freedom Award medals/certificates of merit for TWO winners

Finalists' teachers will be notified by phone by Monday, April 30th .

Finalists must orally present their essays to Ford Freedom committee the week of May 7th.

To reserve space for your classroom at the Scholar's Lecture event, please complete the attached form by April 6th.

Questions? Email me at cwils291@ford.com. Contest coordinator Sharon Martin can be reached after April 5 at 248-470-2556 or srsmartin52@gmail.com.

Best wishes,
Cortnie Squirewell
Ford Motor Company Fund
cwils291@ford.com, 248.943.6283

2018 Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest Entry Form (For Mailed in Entries Only)

Students first and last name _____

Title of essay _____

Grade (circle one): 4 5 6 7 8

School name _____

School address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Teacher's first/last name (include Mr., Mrs., etc.) _____

School phone number (including area code) _____

Teacher's e-mail address _____ I verify that this essay is the original work of the above named student. Also, I agree that if my student/child is a finalist, he/she must orally present his/her essay in front of the Ford Freedom committee the week of May 7th.

Scholar's Lecture event at the Max Fisher Music Center between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Signature of teacher/parent or guardian (required or entry cannot be judged)

Staple a completed copy of the entry form to the FRONT page of each essay and mail to:

Charles H. Wright Museum Education Department
ATTN: Ford Freedom Essay Contest
315 E. Warren Avenue Detroit, MI 48201

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked by April 13, 2018 or dropped off at the museum. Essays will be judged based on content, clarity of student's writing and overall creativity. Does the work reflect the time, thought and care that are appropriate for the student's grade level? Is sentence structure and language appropriate for grade level? Essays that do not follow the contest rules will be disqualified. Additionally, any quotes used in the essay must indicate the source of the quote. Essay competition winners will be selected by the staff of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.