

## **Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest 2008 And Community Service Awards**

**For Grades 4 – 8**

### **Celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ford Freedom Award**

Brought to you by Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services in cooperation with the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

**Deadline: Friday, April 4, 2008**

Essay question

**“I am free because...”**

The Ford Freedom Award is given posthumously to a distinguished individual who has dedicated his or her life to improving the African-American community and the world at large through his or her chosen field: Arts, Humanities, Religion, Business, Politics, Science or Entertainment. In 2008, the Ford Freedom Award will be presented to Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., considered by many to be the “first lady” of the Civil Rights Movement and an influential leader in her own right.

Dr. Dorothy Height, a heroic Civil Rights worker who is a powerful and effective force in implementing change in race and gender equality in the United States and around the world, will be honored as the Ford Freedom Scholar

The Ford Freedom Award Scholar is presented to an individual who has excelled on a national or international level in the field of the Ford Freedom Award Honoree. The Scholar serves as a living legacy, carrying forth the ideals of the Honoree, and in his/her own way furthering those achievements for a new generation.

#### **Prizes**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize**--\$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond and Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**--\$2,500 U.S. Savings Bond and Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**--\$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit
- **Community Service Awards**

**In keeping with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ford Freedom Award and the legacy of Coretta Scott King and Dr. Dorothy Height, two awards will be presented to students who have shown extraordinary volunteer community service efforts. Students may be nominated by teachers or others in the community by letter. Winners will be chosen by the staff of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.**

--Two students in the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade age range will each receive a \$250 U.S.Savings Bond and a Certificate of Merit

- Essay Contest and Community Service Award winners will be presented with their prizes at the Ford Freedom Award Scholar's Lecture at Orchestra Hall on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. An excerpt from the first place winner's essay and other winners' names will be published in "Next!" The Detroit News section for students age 10-14, that appears in Monday's newspaper and on the Detroit Newspapers in Education Web site at [www.dnie.com](http://www.dnie.com).
- **Teachers of winning students will be notified by phone no later than Tuesday, April 29, 2008**

### **Contest Guidelines**

- Essays should not exceed two typed pages or three handwritten pages. We prefer entries to be typed and double-spaced on a 8½ -by-11-inch unlined paper. Handwritten entries must be PRINTED in dark blue or black ink on only one side of lined paper.
- A copy of the **entry form** must be completed and stapled to the BACK of each essay. All information on the entry form—student's name and grade, school name, address and phone number, and teacher's name—must be filled in or the essay cannot be judged. Please write the student's LAST name on the back of the essay. DO NOT include student's first name or school name on the entries to ensure that judging on the basis of gender or school does not occur.
- **Community Service Award nomination form must be filled out and submitted with a letter of nomination from a teacher or other adult and be accompanied by two supportive letters from others who know and can vouch for the student's volunteer community service accomplishments. Nominations must be sent to the following address: The Ford Freedom Award, c/o Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit, MI 48201-1443.**

### **Judging Guidelines**

- Each entry form and essay is numbered; entry forms are removed during the judging process to ensure judging is based solely on the essay.
- Essays will be judged based on content, clarity of student's writing and overall creativity. Is the work imaginative, reflecting time, thought and care that is appropriate for the grade level? Is sentence structure and language appropriate for grade level?
- The work must follow contest rules.
- **The staff of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services will select the final winners of the essay competition and the two Community Service Awards.**
- Once the judging has been completed, entry forms will be reattached to winning essays and winners' teachers will be contacted.

### **Submission of Entries by Teachers**

- Please send all essay entries flat in one envelope accompanied by the Certificates of Participation request form. Certificates of Participation, which may be personalized by participating teachers, will be sent in March. You may request certificates for all students who participated in the essay contest, regardless of whether their work was submitted for judging.
- Although we encourage all students to participate, please send only the best work turned in by your class.
- Send essay contest entries to: **Detroit Newspapers in Education, Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226. Or you may hand-deliver entries to the same address which is the lobby of The Detroit News Building, The lobby is open 24 hours.**
- **Questions? Contact Jeanette Stump at 313-222-8653 or email at [jstump@dnps.com](mailto:jstump@dnps.com)**

**All essays must be received by Detroit Newspapers in Education no later than 5 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2008**