

COMMISSIONER JERRY PATTERSON INVITES FOURTH- AND SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY™ ESSAY CONTEST.

ELIGIBILITY

All public, private and home schooled students of appropriate age for the fourth and seventh grades may participate.

WHY TEXAS TRAVELS?

Texas has a wonderful and unique history. No other state has bragging rights quite like we do—everything really is bigger in Texas! Learning about Texas history is a privilege for young and old alike. The Texas Travels Essay Contest is designed to encourage students to research and write about areas—cities, towns, distinct geographical locales—that are significant to this state’s development, as well as individuals who pioneered the vast and uncharted areas of Texas.

FOURTH-GRADE INSTRUCTIONS

★ **Topic**

Imagine you are Cabeza de Vaca, or another explorer, and you are charting Texas before it became a state. Explain why you have come to Texas, where you have chosen to explore and what you see during your journey. Discuss your plans and goals for settling this new land. Share lots of details about the people and places you encounter. If you like, tell about other explorers who have come before you.

★ **Format**

Essays should be typed or word-processed on plain white 8.5” x 11” paper in 12-point font, or neatly hand written on loose-leaf notebook paper. Submissions must be double-spaced and have 200-300 words.

SEVENTH-GRADE INSTRUCTIONS

★ **Topic**

Research and learn about a city, town or distinct location that has contributed to our state’s rich history. Write about your chosen location and its historical significance. Give reasons why you believe the community is important to the development of Texas and why it is of historical interest. Although not required, we recommend that you include a map with your chosen area marked.

★ **Format**

Essays should be typed or word-processed on plain white 8.5” x 11” paper. Submissions must be double-spaced, 12-point font and have 400-600 words.

★ **Acknowledgments**

Seventh-graders should credit their sources on an “Acknowledgments” page that provides author names, article/book titles and publication dates of any sources used. Students may use MLA or Turabian citation styles. For online research, list the full URL address of each page used. The General Land Office reserves the right to request electronic copies of any submission to review for plagiarism.

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
FEBRUARY 26, 2011 AND RECEIVED BY MARCH 4, 2011.**

ESSAY IDENTIFICATION

The entrant's name should not appear on any portion of the essay. Submissions must be stapled to the signed entry form included in this packet. Essays will be coded to ensure anonymity for judging.

JUDGING

Essays will be judged on criteria appropriate to fourth- or seventh-grade skill levels. Entrants are encouraged to bring original thoughts and ideas into their topic selection while demonstrating factual knowledge of Texas history. Judging will be conducted by historians, grade level and subject area teachers.

Fourth-Grade Criteria

Originality and creativity	40 percent
Historical accuracy	30 percent
Organization, grammar and spelling	20 percent
Neatness and presentation	10 percent

Seventh-Grade Criteria

Originality and creativity	40 percent
Historical accuracy	30 percent
Organization	20 percent
Grammar, spelling and sentence construction	10 percent

PRIZES AND AWARDS

One grand prize winner per grade will receive round-trip airline tickets for four to San Antonio from any Southwest Airlines destination in Texas, hotel accommodations for two nights, and complimentary dining, as well as tickets to attractions provided by the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau. Ten finalists per grade will win Save Texas History backpacks, a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Commissioner Patterson and a historic map replica from the Land Office Archives Collection.

SUBMITTING ENTRIES

NEW! Seventh-grade entries may be electronically submitted in PDF format.

Please send e-mail to essaycontest@glo.texas.gov. **Note:** Entries must contain entry form and be in PDF format only.

ENTRIES MAY BE MAILED TO:

Texas General Land Office, Attn: D'Anne Stites/STH Essay Contest,
P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT D'ANNE STITES AT 1.800.998.4456 OR 512.463.6740.



Proud to be the Official Airline
of the Save Texas History
Essay Contest™

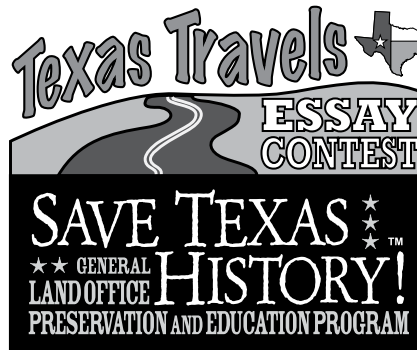


Jerry Patterson,
Commissioner



San Antonio Convention
& Visitors Bureau

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ENTRY FORM

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
FEBRUARY 26, 2011 AND RECEIVED BY MARCH 4, 2011.

STUDENT NAME _____ AGE _____ GRADE _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TEACHER NAME _____

TEACHER E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PARENT E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

I, _____ (parent), give _____ (student) permission to enter his/her essay in the Texas Travels Save Texas History Essay Contest. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) or its agents may use the attached essay entry and my child's name and likeness for Save Texas History purposes including advertising, publicity and other media. Entries will become the property of the GLO and will not be returned. Entrants are encouraged to photocopy their submissions and to call 512.463.6740 to verify receipt by the GLO. I understand that certain winners may be invited to attend Save Texas History events. Participation in such events is voluntary and travel expenses will not be reimbursed if the winner or finalists choose to attend. Winners will be announced by March 31, 2011. Damaged, lost or late entries are not eligible. Household family members of GLO employees are not eligible. The parent/guardian of the winner is solely responsible for all taxes on prizes and must meet eligibility requirements as determined by the contributors. The parent/guardian of the winner is responsible for booking the flight and hotel, which are subject to availability. Southwest Airlines tickets will bear the date of issue and of expiration. The expiration dates will not be extended and tickets will not be refundable or redeemable for cash or credit at any time, nor will tickets be replaced if lost or stolen. Ticket holder must be 18 years or older. Tickets cannot be resold to a third party. Tickets valid on Southwest-operated, published, scheduled service only. Tickets may not be used for other purposes unless previously approved through Southwest Airlines. No substitutions are allowed. Hotel: rooms available with certificate are limited. Certain locations or dates may be completely excluded. Certificate is for standard room only, 1-4 persons per room. One certificate per room, per stay; copies not accepted. Certificate not valid for groups or with any other discount. Please note expiration dates on certificates and admission passes. Void where prohibited by law.

Parent Signature

Date

SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE ALONG WITH THIS SIGNED FORM TO:

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
ATTN: D'ANNE STITES/STH ESSAY CONTEST
P.O. Box 12873
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2873

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT D'ANNE STITES AT 1.800.998.4456 OR 512.463.6740 OR DANNE.STITES@GLO.TEXAS.GOV.