

From: City of Ocoee
Human Relations Diversity Board
Barbara-Anne Boudokhane
Chairman of Black History Essay Contest
150 N. Lakeshore drive
Ocoee, FL 34761
Tel: 407-272-9026

January 17, 2012

Attention Principals of Ocoee and Surrounding Schools

Thank you principals and teachers for your patience and collaboration in achieving this highly prized event in our City of Ocoee and neighboring schools as well as the community at large. You are formally invited to join, and highly encourage your students to partake in our **6th Annual Black History Month Essay Contest** as per the following information. Essays from elementary schools can be an age appropriate length according to what you esteem the highest or lowest count of words and will be judged by the previously sent elementary school criteria worksheet. The middle and high school criteria are stricter and specify a maximum of 500 words per essay. Please make note and circulate this information to parents of students too. *School, Grade Teacher, student and word count to be on essay.

Please note that a special thanks is extended to all students whose brave and creative minds are always to be highlighted in whatever way possible. You are our leaders of tomorrow and we take great pride in your efforts to partake in this essay contest in honor of the up-coming February Black History month.

RE: Black History Essay Contest / Theme : "Dare to Dream" as per criteria definition.
For 5th-12th grades, see criteria sent prior to this letter – grade specific.
Due date for final essay submissions: by Monday February 6, 2012 to be delivered/sent to above address prior to 4:30 pm. Drop box in front of Human Resource Building contingent to City hall on Blufford entrance.

Note: There will be an Award Ceremony with light refreshments at 6:30pm and we are honored with William Floyd, Principal of Ocoee High School, as our Master of Ceremonies.

Date: **Wednesday, February 22, 2012** - Award Ceremony :7pm promptly until approximately 9pm. All participants, parents and guests are asked to stay until the end when the first, second and third place winners from each school will precede the announcement of the final 1st Grand prize winner's reading of essay. All first place winners will be invited to read, on a voluntary basis, their essays prior to 1st Grand Prize Winner who will also be asked to read his essay at this ceremony but also at next year's Martin Luther King Parade ceremony held yearly at the backside of the West Oaks Mall.

Location : to be determined according to the number of participants which should be announced at latest Friday, February 10, 2012 at which point the grading of essays will commence by the City of Ocoee Human Relations Diversity Board members.

Note : Any parent of a child in a specific school that may be a Board Member will be precluded from judging that specific school.

Encouraging and thanking you and your valiant students for partaking in this "Dare to Dream."