



## Coos History Museum **Celebrate Juneteenth 2022 Writing Competition**

On June 19, 1865, enslaved people in Texas finally learned that they had been freed from bondage. President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation more than two years earlier, but Texas slaveholders hid that fact from the people they kept in chains. Since then, generations of Black Americans have celebrated the anniversary of that liberation as “**Juneteenth.**”

Coos History Museum will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 19, 2022. As part of our mission to educate and to foster and invite community participation in CHM events, this year the museum is sponsoring a writing competition to commemorate Juneteenth, which is now both a state and national holiday.

### **Juneteenth Writing Competition Rules**

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade through community college, ages 12-22.

**Divisions:** Middle School, High School, College

**Prizes:**

- Cash for 1<sup>st</sup> (\$200), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$100) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$50) place winners in each category and division.
- Invitation to 1<sup>st</sup> place winners to read (or sing) their winning pieces at the Coos History Museum Juneteenth Celebration.
- Publication on the Coos History Museum website.

**Categories:**

- **Poetry:** Submit up to two (2) original poems, each 32 lines or fewer
- **Song:** Submit up to two (2) original songs; each 2-3 minutes in length when performed
- **Essay:** Submit up to two (2) original essays, each 600-800 words; sources cited

**Judging:**

- All entries will be “blind” judged (with no identification of the entrant) in accordance with a rubric appropriate for the genre.
- Rubrics will be available to participants on the Coos History Museum website.
- The decision of the judges will be final.

**Submission Guidelines:**

1. Participants may enter submissions in all three categories, but will only be able to place once in each category.
2. All submissions must be the entrant’s original work and not previously published elsewhere.



3. Submissions must address one of the **Juneteenth Themes** as listed below. The **Suggested Prompts** are optional and you may opt for your own, but it must still address one of the Juneteenth Themes listed below.
4. Submissions must contain appropriate language suitable for a mixed-age audience.
5. The Juneteenth Committee reserves the right to request editing of inappropriate or erroneous information.
6. All submissions must be in size 12, Times New Roman font, with a title, and page numbers listed on each page. NO identifying information will be included on the pieces submitted.
7. Song submissions must include an audio recording in addition to the written lyrics, either mp4 or wav file.
8. Each entry must be submitted by email in an individual document (Word or PDF) to [juneteenth@cooshistory.org](mailto:juneteenth@cooshistory.org). [ex: 2 poems = 2 documents]
9. The submission email must include:
  - Contact details (first & last name and age group, email, phone number)
  - Category, division, and title of each piece submitted
10. **DEADLINE: 5pm, April 30, 2022.**
11. **Winners will be notified by May 21, 2022.**
  - First place winners who wish to read their piece or perform their song must be available for and attend a rehearsal on a designated date prior to the celebration.

#### **Juneteenth Themes:**

##### **Entrants will address one of the following themes:**

- Juneteenth: Our Second Independence Day
- Celebrating Triumphs of the Human Spirit
- Survival in Unsettling Times
- Advancing Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Equality vs. Equity
- Honoring the Courage and Achievement of African-Americans
- The Road from Liberation to Equality

#### **Suggested Prompts:**

##### **Write a poem, song, or an essay about:**

- the after-effects of the Juneteenth announcement in Galveston, Texas in 1865.
- the legacy of Juneteenth and what that legacy means in modern times.
- what changes society can make to ensure true liberation for all.
- what you personally can do to ensure true liberation for all.
- an African-American who has made a difference toward the progress of freedom.
- an African-American who has achieved in the face of adversity.
- achievements of African-Americans since the Emancipation Proclamation.

**The Coos History Museum reserves the right to not award a prize in any given category if no entry meets the standards set by the judges. By submitting you are agreeing to all competition rules.**