

**Hispanic Heritage Month 2009**  
***“Florida: Embracing Its Hispanic Roots While Looking to the Future”***

**Governor Charlie Crist’s Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest**  
**Official Rules and Guidelines**

**Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12**

Governor Charlie Crist’s Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the state of Florida. Three winners will be selected: one elementary (4-5) student, one middle (6-8) student, and one high school (9-12) student. Winners will be notified the week of **October 5, 2009**.

- Entries must be mailed to Executive Office of the Governor: Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, 400 S. Monroe Street, Suite LL-10, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, **post-marked by September 16, 2009**.
- High school and middle school essays should address the following topic: **“Florida’s history is deeply rooted with Hispanic influences. Describe how the early Hispanic explorers impacted our state in the 1500s, and how that has influenced Florida’s culture today.”**
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade essays should address the following topic: **“Hispanic culture has been a part of Florida’s past and present, and will continue to influence the Florida of tomorrow. Choose a historic or present day Hispanic Floridian and describe the positive ways this person has impacted our state.”**
- Each student may enter only one essay.
- A completed entry/parental waiver form must accompany each essay. The entry form/parental waiver can be obtained on the Governor’s Hispanic Heritage Month Web site at [www.floridahispanicheritage.com](http://www.floridahispanicheritage.com) under the “Student Contests” tab.
- Essays submitted must include contestant’s name, home address, telephone number, school the student attends, grade level, title of the essay, and a word count. Essays must be no longer than 500 words in length, and should be typed.
- Winners will receive a four-year full tuition scholarship to any Florida state college or university of their choice, provided by Florida Prepaid College Foundation.
- Winners will be awarded their scholarships at the Governor’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebration to be held in Tallahassee in October. Reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid for the winners and 2 immediate family members.
- Winners must be Florida residents and be able to provide a Social Security Number.

Contact the Governor’s Office at (850) 410-0501 for any further questions.