



**Mr. & Ms. Juneteenth Contest &  
Juneteenth Essay Contest  
Please Post & Announce!**

**"Juneteenth Fathers of Freedom"** is the theme for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Freedom & Heritage Festival. Juneteenth (June 19th) is the oldest celebration marking the end of slavery in the US and was first celebrated in Galveston, Texas. Last year, Utah became a federal holiday and the Legislature voted to recognize Juneteenth Freedom Day as the newest state holiday in March. We're honored to be a part of the national and local movement to promote Juneteenth to the state and nation and to build upon the extraordinary achievement over our long history in Utah! The Juneteenth Festival brings communities together, from all walks of life, to honor our past, celebrate the richness of African and African American arts and culture, and embrace the promises of a brighter future.

We're extending a special invitation for your youth with two featured Juneteenth events to engage and honor their achievements. First, our **Mr. & Ms. Juneteenth Scholarship Program** is open to high school juniors and seniors of African/ African American heritage. This event is not a beauty or popularity program. Winners will be selected based on their grades, leadership, school, community and involvement, and personal essay. The deadline for receiving their completed application is June 1, 2022. First Place winners will receive \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$250, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$100 awards.

The other opportunity is our **Juneteenth Essay Contest**. The contest has three categories. The categories are Grade 5-6, Grades 7-9, and Grades 10-12. Essays should be 500 words maximum, and applicants will be rated on originality, development of the theme, grammar, and punctuation. The following "Cash Awards" will be given for each category:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$200
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$100
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 50

Each school or organization is being asked to identify a winner in each category to represent them in the finals. Please send your finalist essay winners to the Juneteenth Committee by June 1, 2022. Judging of finalists will be June 2-10 and winners will be announced and notified by June 11, 2022. Winners in each category will be presented at the Juneteenth Festival on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The topic for the Essay Contest: Blacks/African Americans have fought in each war on American and Foreign soil for freedom, equality, and justice. Please share the significance of this service to our country, during times when freedom and justice were denied and/or delayed for them in the United States.**

We look forward to your participation. For questions please contact Betty Sawyer at [projectsuccessinc1@gmail.com](mailto:projectsuccessinc1@gmail.com) or 801-394-0924. Thank you.