



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



"Juneteenth Wave of Freedom" is the theme for the 34th 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 May 25, 2023. First Place winners will receive \$500, 2nd place \$250, and 3rd 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 st Place	\$200
2 nd Place	\$100
3 rd 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 May 25, 2023. Winners will be announced and notified by June 3, 2023. Winners in each category will be presented at the Juneteenth Festival on June 17th.

The topic for the Essay Contest ***Juneteenth Waves of Freedom...Journey Beyond the Middle Passage.*** "Crossing the Atlantic in the hold of a slave ship, or slaver, was a horrific ordeal. Perhaps one third of the captives perished on this journey, known as the Middle Passage—the middle leg of a three-part trade in slaves and goods between Europe, Africa, and the Americas." These captives ended up on other continents and countries.

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