



**TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE**  
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

---

1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Commissioner Bush announces winners of the Save Texas History Essay Contest**

Winners from Alvin, Austin, Corsicana, Cypress, El Paso, Houston, Keller, Needville, Plano, Pottsboro, San Antonio, Stockdale and Wimberley

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 01, 2016**

**Contact: Brittany Eck**  
**(512) 463-5708**  
**[brittany.eck@glo.texas.gov](mailto:brittany.eck@glo.texas.gov)**

AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush today announced the [fourth- and seventh- grade winners](#) of the 2016 Save Texas History Essay Contest, sponsored by the Texas General Land Office's Save Texas History Program. The Essay Contest encourages students to answer the question, "What history in your community, or in Texas, is worth saving?"

Students across Texas won in the the 2016 Save Texas History Essay Contest

"As a former history teacher it's especially rewarding to encourage students to learn more about our state's rich history by participating in the annual Save Texas History Essay Contest," said Commissioner Bush. "I want to thank all students who submitted essays as well as the teachers and parents who encouraged them to participate. The submissions were thoughtful and creative examples of how future generations of Texans appreciate the rich history in their local communities and around the state, and what these students would do to save Texas history. Congratulations to everyone who won and to all who participated."

The fourth- grade grand prize winner is Shawnee Pool, daughter of Tammie Pool. Shawnee is in Ms. Lawrence's class at Pottsboro Elementary in Pottsboro. Shawnee explained how the Twin Sisters Dance Hall in Blanco was important to save because of its value as an historic community and cultural center since 1870.

The seventh- grade grand prize winner is Abby House, daughter of Regina House. Abby is in Ms. Sandidge's class at Needville Junior High in Needville. Abby explained how the Imperial Sugar Building in Sugarland was important to save because of its agricultural and economic impact on the region and its value as the prime producer of refined sugar for the state.

The winning submissions earn these two accomplished essayists a complimentary three-day car rental from National Car Rental, as well as several prizes from the San Antonio Tourism Council, including a three-day (two-night stay) in San Antonio, tickets

to Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Natural Bridge Caverns, the San Antonio Zoo, and other area attractions. The 10 finalists in each grade level won Save Texas History backpacks, certificates of appreciation signed by Land Commissioner George P. Bush, and a historic map reproduction from the Land Office map collection. The names of all finalists appear on the Save Texas History website at [www.savetexashistory.org](http://www.savetexashistory.org).

The fourth- grade runners up are:

Sophia Curiel - El Paso

Reyes Elementary

Teacher: Ms. Guerrero

Parents: Rogelio and Carmen Curiel

Topic: El Paso Street in downtown El Paso

Corbet Cowey - Stockdale

Stockdale Elementary

Teacher: Venicia Monita

Parents: Corbet and Brenda Cowey

Topic: The Clock Tower at Fort Sam Houston

Brennan Rice - Pottsboro

Pottsboro Elementary

Parent: Sheila Rice

Topic: Lake Texoma

Britain Emerson - Austin

Boone Elementary

Teacher: Samantha Barrett

Parent: Charis Emerson

Topic: Zilker Park in Austin

Dorsey Warstler - Austin

Boone Elementary

Teacher: Evon Davis

Parents: Morgan and Sherina Warstler

Topic: Lady Bird Lake downtown Austin

Jaidyn Landry - Houston

Green Valley Elementary

Teacher: Kimberly Hancock

Parent: Grant Landry

Topic: Mission San Jose in San Antonio

Joyce Bennett - San Antonio

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School

San Antonio, TX 78216

Teacher: Laurine Heinsheimer

Parent: Juanita Rodriguez

Topic: Tower of the Americas in San Antonio

Ian Kelley - Austin

Boone Elementary

Teacher: Samantha Barrett

Parent: Christina Kelley

Topic: Enchanted Rock in Enchanted Rock State Park

Sofia Thapa - Corsicana  
James L. Collins Catholic School  
Teacher: Fred Lagomarsino  
Topic: Temple Beth-El in Corsicana

Jonathan Ramirez - Houston  
Green Valley Elementary  
Teacher: Marion Brown  
Parent: Annabelle Garcia  
Topic: Spanish Missions in Texas

The 7th grade runners up are:

Addie Fusig - Alvin  
Grace Ward Harby Junior High School  
Teacher: Jerry Nelson  
Parent: Sarah Fusig  
Topic: The Astrodome in Houston

Damien Panton - Austin  
Fulmore Middle School  
Teacher: Carrie Schreiber  
Parent: Kathy Panton  
Topic: Fulmore Middle School Building

Kathryn Mendoza - Wimberley  
Danforth Junior High School  
Teacher: Tommy Bennett  
Parents: Richard and Beth Mendoza  
Topic: Houston's Old Sixth Ward

Victoria Ramos - El Paso  
Ysleta Middle School  
Teacher: Wendy Lee Carrasco Solorio  
Parent: Alice Ramos  
Topic: Ysleta Mission in El Paso

Emily Ray - Keller  
Keller Middle School  
Teacher: Heidi Cox  
Parent: Doyle Ray  
Topic: The Water Tower in Keller

John Reyna - Houston  
South Houston Intermediate School  
Houston, TX 77587  
Teacher: Aimee Schultz  
Parent: Blanca A. Reyna  
Topic: The Astrodome in Houston

Devany Garza - Needville  
Needville Junior High School  
Teacher: Jana Sandidge  
Parent: Yolanda Garza  
Topic: Needville Water Tower

Caroline Wei - Cypress  
Hamilton Middle School  
Teacher: Teri Sarver  
Parent: Hungwei Wei  
Topics: The Onate Crossing and the Port Isabel Yacht Club

Sanjana Shangle - Plano  
Pat and Catherine Fowler Middle School  
Teacher: Margie Fitzgerald  
Parent: Tarun Shangle  
Topics: The Alamo and the Fort Worth Stockyards

Eveleigh Jenning - Wimberley  
Danforth Junior High School  
Teacher: Tommy Bennett  
Parent: Andrea Brown  
Topic: San Solomon Springs at Balmorhea State Park

All public, private and home-schooled students of appropriate age for the fourth grade or seventh grade were eligible to participate. Essays for the annual contest are judged on originality of idea, cohesiveness of thought and organization, with help from the UTeach Liberal Arts Program at the University of Texas-Austin.

The Texas General Land Office Save Texas History™ program is a statewide initiative to rally public support and private funding for the preservation and promotion of more than 35 million historic maps and documents. With the twin goals of preservation and education, the Save Texas History program seeks to conserve these documents for future generations and educate Texans about the rich heritage found in these vital records. For more details, visit [SaveTexasHistory.org](http://SaveTexasHistory.org).

You can follow Save Texas History at [Facebook.com/SaveTXHistory](https://Facebook.com/SaveTXHistory) and Twitter at [Twitter.com/SaveTxHistory](https://Twitter.com/SaveTxHistory).

###