



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
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PRESS RELEASE

Commissioner George P. Bush Announces the Winners and Finalists of the 2022 Save Texas History Essay Contest

Inoperable vessels may be turned in October 17-22

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush is pleased to announce the winners and finalists of the 2022 Save Texas History Essay Contest, sponsored by the Texas General Land Office’s Save Texas History Program. Fourth- and seventh-grade students from across Texas answered the question, “What history in your community is worth saving?”

“I am continuously inspired by the insight of these young Texans, having read their essays and seen their passion for Texas history”, said Commissioner Bush. “Whether it’s a small town’s rich traditions or a community bound by military service and appreciation, Myreen’s and Brenton’s essays are a reminder of what we love about our great state. Congratulations to them and this year’s finalists, and all who participated and shared their stories of Texas.”

The fourth-grade grand prize winner is Brenton Cloud, son of Tiffany and Cedric Cloud. Brenton is in Julie Kortenhoeven’s class at Broadway Elementary School in Spring. His essay, **A Small Town in a Big City**

, shares his love of the town of Spring and the many festivals and events it hosts, such as the Texas Crawfish and Music Festival and PetFest. He especially likes to “see the old buildings and imagine what the railroad workers were thinking when they settled in this area and what life was like back then.”

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ESSAY](#)

The seventh-grade grand prize winner is Myreen Mamun, daughter of Anne and Abdullah Mamun. Myreen is in Victoria Brewer’s class at Salyards Middle School in Cypress. Myreen’s essay, **Battleship USS Texas: A Gift of Defense**

, highlights the importance of the ship known as the “Mighty T” in both World Wars, including its role in D-Day. As Myreen points out, USS Texas “is priceless to us and deserves to be continuously preserved for generations to come.”

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ESSAY](#)

The grand prize winners will each receive a \$500 gift card courtesy of Chris Cantu of Edward Jones Investments. The ten finalists will each receive a \$100 gift card courtesy of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) – Moses Austin Chapter and Buck Cole. In addition, the SRT, Texas State Historical Association, and Texas General Land Office will provide an assortment of contest prizes to all the winning students and their teachers.

Fourth Grade Finalists:

Sacha Bennett

Homeschool

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Katherine Stewart, Temple, TX

Teacher: Katherine Stewart

Essay Topic: History of Temple

Josiah Briseno

Glasscock County ISD

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Marlana and Ismael Briseno, Big Spring, TX

Teacher: Kelly Hall

Essay Topic: Comanche Trail Park

Hadly Dieringer

Glasscock County ISD

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Derek Dieringer, Garden City, TX

Teacher: Kelly Hall

Essay Topic: St. Lawrence Fall Festival

Sutton Ondrovik

Homeschool

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Whitney and Kerry Ondrovik, Leakey, TX

Teachers: Whitney and Kerry Ondrovik

Essay Topic: Real County History Museum

Presley Steffan

RJ Richey Elementary School

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Sara and Jason Steffan, Burnet, TX

Teachers: Shaylah Cunningham and Cindi Evans

Essay Topic: Wallace Riddell Monument

Seventh Grade Finalists:

Isabella Ames

Pettus Secondary School

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Ferran and David Ames, Tuleta, TX

Teacher: Sarah Eldridge

Essay Topic: History of Pettus

Isabel Cuellar

Brooks Collegiate Academy

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Adrienne Davis and Paulino Cuellar, San Antonio, TX

Teacher: Joshua Freeman

Essay Topic: Majestic Theater

Evelyn Lopez

Wilson Junior High School

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Lucia and Juan Lopez, Dayton, TX

Teacher: Carrie Yarbrough

Essay Topic: Rice Growing in Dayton

Saamiya Merali

Kelly Lane Middle School

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Salika and Taha, Pflugerville, TX

Teacher: Renee Oricchio

Essay Topic: Lady Bird Lake

Clay Thompson

Homeschool

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Wendy and Dylan Thompson, Burnet, TX

Teacher: Wendy Thompson

Essay Topic: 1884 Historic Jail

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 were judged on originality of idea, cohesiveness of thought and organization. Proper grammar, spelling and punctuation were also taken into account.

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.

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