



Los Altos Historical Commission and Los Altos History Museum
32nd ANNUAL MARGARET THOMPSON HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST
For 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders

2016 Theme: Traditions and Stories that Celebrate Your Ancestry

General Instructions for Teachers and Principals

- 1) READ the attached prompt and rubric before you discuss this contest with your students. You may wish to photocopy both the prompt and the rubric for your students to refer to as they write their essay.
- 2) **NEW INSTRUCTION: A COVER SHEET WITH PARENT RELEASE and SIGNATURE is required.** Remind your students that the **COVER SHEET MUST BE STAPLED** to the top of the essay.
- 3) READ the grading rubric to the students. This rubric is used to judge the essays.
- 4) When you receive the completed essays from your students, please put them in a large envelope. Please label the envelope the "MARGARET THOMPSON HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST."
- 5) LASD essays must be returned to the LASD Asst. Superintendent's office by **March 4**.
- 6) Private school/home-schooled essays must be returned to the History Museum by **March 4**.
- 7) Prompt, instructions, and rubric are also available at the following websites: Los Altos History Museum, Los Altos School District, and the City of Los Altos/Los Altos Hills.
- 8) Essays will **NOT** be returned. Please ask students to make a copy before they turn in their essays.

All essay participants, their parents, teachers, and principals are invited to attend an Ice Cream Social on May 10. The Ice Cream Social will on the History Museum Patio at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The 25th Anniversary trophy will also awarded to the school/schools with the most winners. Following the ice cream social, winners will be recognized at the City Council meeting starting at 7:00 pm. The City Council meeting is televised on cable TV and via streaming video online at www.losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/online.

****A note of appreciation from the Los Altos Historical Commission and the Education Committee of the Los Altos History Museum to participating teachers:**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this essay contest. We hope that you and your students find it interesting and rewarding, and that it encourages interest in the history of Los Altos.
