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April 19, 2022

Dear Friend:

On behalf of the Women of Color Cultural Foundation, Incorporated, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support of our youth educational programs. We are currently accepting applications for the *Emerging Stars* Scholarship Essay Competition. The theme for this year is: THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT FIRST RESPONDERS DO”.

The competition is open to Tenth and Eleventh Grade High School Students for the 2021-2022 school year. This essay competition provides an opportunity for both young men and women currently enrolled in high school, to compete for a postsecondary educational scholarship. The students will have an opportunity to display their inner creativity, strengthen their self-confidence while sharpening their verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

All contestants are required to have a minimum of 2.5 GPA. A copy of the attached application including the signed authorization from the student and their parent or guardian is to be submitted via email to womenofcolorcf@comcast.net no later than Friday, May 6, 2022.

Join us in supporting our youth as they give recognition to first responders for all that they have done and continue to do for our community and country. Please distribute the attached application to interested students. The completed application including signature authorizations are to be emailed to womenofcolorcf@comcast.net.

Thank you for your support and continued commitment to our youth. We look forward to seeing youth representation from your school. For any questions please call (904) 683-1757 or (904) 635-5191.

Sincerely yours,

Helen D Jackson, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Rules and Guidelines of the **Emerging Stars** Scholarship Essay Competition

The Essay Competition consists of written submissions by current 2021-2022, 10th and 11th grade high school students. (Emerging Stars-Rising Seniors)

1. Structure of the Essay Competition:

1.1 The essay should focus on *“The Importance of What First Responders Do”*. First Responders are considered as a branch of the military; Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Veterans, Paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians, Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA), Florida Power & Light (FPL), or Medical Professions.

1.2 The participant must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA (Provide an unofficial copy of your transcript with your application or your essay submission).

1.3 A grading rubric will be utilized to score the essay.

2. Procedures for the written submissions

2.1 The essay application is due by midnight on **Friday, May 6, 2022**.

2.2 You will be notified of your assigned professional category to write your essay by **May 13th**.

2.3 Attendance is required at one of the virtual student and parent orientation will be held on the following dates: You may choose to attend **one** of the following dates:

- **Thursday, June 2nd at 7:00 PM-8:00 PM**
- **Saturday, June 4th at 10:00 AM-11:00 AM.**

2.4 The deadline to submit your essay is **June 17, 2022, via email to womenofcolorcf@comcast.net**.

2.5 Only original essays will be considered for the competition. Any form of plagiarism will result in disqualification of the essay.

2.6 Length of essay: The essay shall be between 500 - 750-words.

2.7 Format Requirement

2.7.1 Typed used 12-point Times Roman font

2.7.2 Cover page should include name of the participant, mailing address, e-mail address, contact number, and name of high school.

2.7.3 List of sited References (Citations) should be included on a separate page after the essay if applicable. (APA or MLA style)

4. Winners Notification – Winners will be notified by July 30, 2022.

5. Prizes

- A total of fifty \$1,000 Emerging Star Scholarships will be awarded (*in the name of one of the Fifty Star First Responder Honorees to be announced later*).
- Each winner will receive an invitation to attend the Fifty Stars Gala Award. The scholarships will be announced on September 9, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida 32202 (**Attendance of Winners is required**). The ticket for winners will be provided at no cost for this formal event. Additional details will be provided during the virtual student/parent orientation.



EMERGING STARS SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST
 “THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT FIRST RESPONDERS DO”

2022 APPLICATION FORM [PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE]

Participant’s Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell# _____ Email _____

Name of School _____ Grade _____ GPA _____ Age _____

Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Briefly Describe your Career Goals: _____

You will be **assigned** a First Responders Professional Category to write **your essay** from your **top three choices** after May 13th. Please indicate the number 1, 2, and 3 next to your choices.

First Responder Professional Categories:

• Army ____	• Reserves ____	• Firefighters ____
• Navy ____	• Veterans ____	• Paramedics ____
• Airforce ____	• JEA ____	• EMTs ____
• Marines ____	• FPL ____	• Law Enforcement ____
• Coast Guard ____	• Medical Professionals ____	• American Red Cross ____
• National Guard ____		

I have read and agree to the rules for the Scholarship Essay Contest set forth by the Women of Color Cultural Foundation, Inc. I certify that I meet all the participant requirements. I further understand, if I win, the Scholarship check will be mailed to the College/University I plan to attend once I receive my acceptance letter.

Participant’s Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT PERMISSION

_____ I give permission for my son/daughter to enter the *EMERING STARS* Scholars Essay Competition.

_____ In the event my son/daughter wins a scholarship, I give permission for their picture and name to be included in a news announcement and mentioned publicly. I agree for my son/daughter to attend the 50 Stars Gala on September 9, 2022.

Parent Name (Please Print) _____

Parent Telephone Number _____ Cell# _____ Email _____

Parent’s Signature _____ Date _____

Please email to: womenofcolorcfcomcast.net

You will be contacted upon receipt of your application after **May 13, 2022**.