

Rusty

City

Robert D. Frank



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2022

Contact: Joy P. Wright
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Black History Month Essay Contest Winners

OCOEE, Fla. – The City of Ocoee’s Human Relations Diversity Board hosted its 18th Annual Black History Month Essay Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was held virtually at City Hall on February 24. It was broadcast on Ocoee TV Spectrum 493 and live streamed at <https://www.ocoee.org/197/Ocoee-TV>.

The theme for the essay competition was “Connecting Through Diversity in an Isolated Environment to Support Positive Mental Health”. Congratulations to Overall Winner Hailey Smith. She is a 5th grader at Maxey Elementary School who beat out 145 other students. Thank you to the following elementary schools that participated in the contest: Citrus; Hope Charter; Maxey; Ocoee; Prairie Lake; Renaissance Charter at Crown Point; Spring Lake and Thornebrooke. For her efforts, Hailey received a \$400 Best Buy gift card. First place winners received a \$100 Best Buy gift card. Second place winners received a \$25 gift card. The second-place gift cards are from Target and Walmart. Third and fourth place winners received certificates of recognition. In addition, all of the honorees received gift bags with city promotional items, Chick-fil-A coupons and certificates of recognition. **See the complete list of winners below.**

The essay competition is held each year for 5th grade students attending Ocoee schools. To watch the Virtual Essay Awards Ceremony, visit Ocoee TV’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/vSKTcwMvRz0>.

OVERALL WINNER

Hailey Smith – Maxey Elementary

Citrus Elementary

Sajid Baksh (First)
Brooklyn Gibbs (Second)
Pauline Sylvestre (Third)

HOPE Charter Elementary

Tessa Wilder (First)
Kate Robin (Second)
Liam Fischer (Third)
Abbigail Darin (Fourth)

Maxey Elementary

Hailey Smith (First)
Riya Brijbasu (Second)
Azany Duan-Garcia (Third)

MORE

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Ocoee Essay Contest Winners

Ocoee Elementary

Samirah Elashhab (First)
Colton Cowles (Second)
Kinley Casey (Third)

Prairie Lake Elementary

Amiyah Ganesh (First)
Jeana Leandre (Second)
Kendyll Ruff (Third)

Renaissance Charter at Crown Point

Evee Tamikia Dowling (First)
Keyden Walker (Second)
Leilah Etienne (Third)
Elijah Magloire (Fourth)

Spring Lake Elementary

Cortland Wilcox (First)
Jared Chiesa (Second)
Aylin Herrera (Third)

Thornebrooke Elementary

Rathin Dayal (First)
Nadeshka Marrero (Second)
Aniyah Culpepper (Third)
Amelia Beaudet (Fourth)

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