



National Park Service
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What Does Freedom Mean to You?

Student Art Contest Commemorates 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

SPRINGFIELD, IL- Calling all teenage film makers, poets, and photographers! The [National Park Service](#), in partnership with the [National Park Foundation's African American Experience Fund](#), today launched [Expressions of Freedom](#), a nationwide artistic competition to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Contest submissions will be accepted from students 13 to 18 years old in three categories – photography, poetry, and digital short films. The first-place winner in each category will receive a \$2,500 academic scholarship and the second-place winner will receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship. The deadline for entries is October 15, 2012. Details are available at <http://www.nps.gov/freedom>.

“The issue that was at the heart of the Civil War – the continual struggle for equality for all – remains relevant today,” said Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. “This contest encourages young people to reflect on their own personal meanings of freedom and creatively express those thoughts.”

Expressions of Freedom is designed to connect student artists to the significance of the American Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the system of national parks that commemorate events associated with the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.

President Abraham Lincoln had advocated for freedom and equal rights in a variety of ways before issuing the famous Emancipation Proclamation. As a congressman in 1849, Lincoln tried to end slavery in Washington D.C. On March 6, 1860, Lincoln gave a speech in which he advocated for equal opportunities for African Americans. “I want every man to have the chance--and I believe a black man is entitled to it---in which he can better his condition ---when he may

look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year and the next, work for himself afterward, and finally to hire men to work for him! That is the true system.” In July 4, 1861 during a message to Congress in Special Session, Lincoln insists “to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in race of life.”

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 397 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.