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### **Oklahoma students can earn cash for entries about Oklahoma heritage**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Fourth through 12<sup>th</sup> graders from across the state have the chance to embrace their Oklahoma heritage by participating in the Oklahoma Heritage Association’s annual Heritage Week Competitions. They could even win some cash while they’re at it.

The Association has hosted the Heritage Week Competitions since 1977. Fourth through sixth graders compete in the poster competition in which they must depict an Oklahoman through art. Seventh through ninth graders compete in the essay competition in which they relate the importance of an individual from their county to their county’s history. Tenth through 12<sup>th</sup> graders compete in the poster/essay competition in which they use both art and the written word to depict a native Oklahoman’s impact on the state.

“Oklahoma’s history is full of diverse individuals, rich in the five characteristics presented in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum – perseverance, pioneer spirit, optimism, generosity and individualism,” said Shannon L. Nance, president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. “Through this competition, students have the opportunity to identify with someone who has made a meaningful impact on our state and then look forward to making their own mark on our history.”

Cash awards, ranging from \$50 to \$350 and co-sponsored by IBC Bank, are presented to the first, second and third place statewide winners in each age group. One winning student from each region will also earn additional cash awards. All winners are honored in reception held at the Museum.

“It is so exciting to meet the award winners, their families and educators at the awards reception each year,” said Louise Painter, who has chaired the Heritage Week committee since the program’s inception. “For more than 30 years, this program has given students the opportunity to celebrate and share the amazing heritage we share as Oklahomans.”

Entries for each of the competitions are due on Friday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. to the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum at NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Shartel Avenue in Oklahoma City.

For detailed competition rules and entry forms, visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com) or call Gini Moore Campbell, director of publications and education, at 405.523.3202. Entries can be mailed or delivered to 1400 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City, 73106.

For more information about the Oklahoma Heritage Association or the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, call 405.235.4458, toll free 888.501.2059, or visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com).

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