



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE CONSTITUTIONAL WALKING TOUR ANNOUNCES STUDENT  
WINNERS OF 8th ANNUAL AMERICAN FREEDOM ESSAY CONTEST IN  
HONOR OF CONSTITUTION DAY & CITIZENSHIP DAY**

***Winning Students from Pennsylvania and New York Receive  
Free Sightseeing Tour of Philadelphia***

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** – March 12, 2015 – The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia today announced the student winners of its 2014 American Freedom Essay Contest.

The winner in the **Elementary School Category** (Grades 1-5) was Olivia Heim from Centerville Elementary School in Lancaster, PA (Lancaster County) for the essay “What Freedom Means to Me” (Teacher: Cara Greer).

The winner in the **Middle School Category** (Grades 6-8) was Emma Contiguglia from The Nightingale-Bamford School in New York, NY (New York County) for the essay “My Gratitude for Freedom of Speech” (Teacher: Amanda Goodwin).

The winner in the **High School Category** (Grades 9-12) was Markelda Martinez from Excel Academy South in Philadelphia, PA (Philadelphia County) for the essay “Outlet of Liberty” (Teacher: Jennifer Weaver).

The American Freedom Essay Contest received many wonderful essays from students attending public and private schools, as well as those being home schooled, all along the East Coast of the United States. In total, there were more than 900 essays received from more than 50 schools which participated in the Constitution Day essay contest. Schools from the following 9 states participated: Connecticut, Delaware, Kansas,

Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The winning essays are posted online at [www.theconstitutional.com/essay](http://www.theconstitutional.com/essay) .

“Once again in 2014, we were overwhelmed with the response to our eighth annual American Freedom Essay Contest,” stated Jonathan Bari, President of The Constitutional Walking Tour. “We salute all of the students and educators who participated in the contest on a job well done with the high caliber of essays that we received.”

Essay topics represented a broad spectrum of ideas and different points of view on various subjects including freedom of speech, freedom to vote, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to petition the government, the right to bear arms, the right to pursue one’s happiness, etc.

### **American Freedom Essay Contest**

September 17th is designated as Constitution Day because on that date in 1787, the delegates of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the United States Constitution at Independence Hall. For the eighth year, in honor of Constitution Day, The Constitutional Walking Tour asked students to give their views about American freedom. The American Freedom Essay Contest challenged educators to get their students to write a 100-300 word essay on the importance of freedom in their lives. Entries were judged in Elementary School, Middle School and High School categories with the winner in each category earning a free field trip of Historic Philadelphia with The Constitutional Walking Tour for his/her class. For more details on The Constitutional’s field trips, visit [www.TheConstitutional.com/schools](http://www.TheConstitutional.com/schools).

To sign up to receive an email when the details of the 2015 American Freedom Essay Contest is announced, visit [www.TheConstitutional.com/schools](http://www.TheConstitutional.com/schools) and sign up for The Constitutional Walking Tour’s Educator mailing list.

### **The Constitutional’s Educator Resources**

The Constitutional Walking Tour offers a variety of resources to help Educational Institutions and Federal Agencies fulfill the annual requirement for Constitution Day

programming, including The Constitutional Guided Walking Tour. For details on all of The Constitutional's educational resources, please visit [www.TheConstitutional.com/1787](http://www.TheConstitutional.com/1787) .

### **About The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia**

The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia is one of the leading providers of Philadelphia sightseeing tours. Located in Historic Philadelphia, The Constitutional visits more than 20 of the most historical sites on a 75 minute, 1.25 mile outdoor adventure in the Independence National Historical Park area, which is home to the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center. The Constitutional is also the producer of the Spirits of '76 Ghost Tour of Philadelphia which features more than 20 of "Philly's Frights & Sights"™ on a 75 minute, 1.25 mile outdoor walking tour through Historic Philadelphia that features haunted facts and folklore. For more information, please see [www.Spiritsof76.com](http://www.Spiritsof76.com) .

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