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THE CONSTITUTIONAL WALKING TOUR ANNOUNCES STUDENT WINNERS IN ITS THIRD ANNUAL AMERICAN FREEDOM ESSAY CONTEST IN HONOR OF CONSTITUTION DAY & CITIZENSHIP DAY

Winning Students from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York Receive Free Sightseeing Tour of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – November 19, 2009 – The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia today announced the student winners of its 2009 American Freedom Essay Contest.

The winner in the **Elementary School Category** (Grades 1-5) was Dylan Bresnan from Trevor Day School in New York, NY (New York County) for his essay “Why Freedom Matters in My Life” (Teacher: Liz Fishman).

The winner in the **Middle School Category** (Grades 6-8) was Hunter James from Reed Intermediate School in Newtown, CT (Fairfield County) for her essay “Speaking Out and Speaking Freely” (Teacher: Valerie Pagano-Hepburn).

The winner in the **High School Category** (Grades 9-12) was Andrew Fixler from Weston High School in Weston, MA (Middlesex County) for his essay “Freedom of the Press” (Teacher: Don Benson).

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 1,500 essays received from approximately 100 schools which participated in the Constitution Day essay contest. Schools from the following states participated: Georgia, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The winning essays are posted online at www.theconstitutional.com/essay .

“Once again in 2009, we were overwhelmed with the response to our third 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 third 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.

To sign up to receive an email when the details of the 2010 American Freedom Essay Contest is announced, visit 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 .

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 .

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