



**THE IMPACT OF PRESERVATION
2023 High School Scholarship Contest
Thursday, October 19, 2023**

General Information:

The purpose of the Historic Wilmington Foundation's High School Scholarship Program: The Impact of Preservation Speech Contest is to provide participants and audience members education and appreciation about our region's historic structures. Additionally, students will gain valuable experience in public speaking, along with a unique opportunity to learn about the value of local historic preservation.

Scholarships:

Scholarships are presented to the three finalists as follows: **1st Place: \$2,500; 2nd Place: \$1,500; 3rd Place: \$1,000.** These scholarships may be used to attend any community/junior college, approved vocational school, or university, or college in the United States. *Scholarships will be paid directly to the institution.*

Eligibility:

All students presently enrolled in a Brunswick County, New Hanover County, or Pender County school as a junior or senior for the 2023-2024 school year may apply. The contest is limited to the first 25 qualifying students who apply.

Time/Date/Location:

Part of HWF's 2023 Preservation Weekend (October 19-22), the Impact of Preservation Speech Contest will be held on Thursday, October 19 at 7:00pm at CFCC's Union Station (502 N. Front Street), room U-170. (Students should be prepared to attend from 6:30pm-8:30pm, to include check-in, as well as a reception following the contest.) This event is free and open to the public.

Application Due Date:

Applications are due by Thursday, October 12, 2023. *If you intend upon using a visual aid during your speech, please send the file to scholarships@historicwilmington.org by Wednesday, October 18 at noon.*

Format:

Each qualifying contestant shall conduct research and present one brief presentation limited to 5 minutes or less, and may use a visual aid (e.g., PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides, etc.), if desired. *(Visual aides are not necessary and do not contribute to the judges' scoring.)* The students will select one (1) of the structures from the approved list (listed below) and conduct independent research on the structure.

Buildings not on the list will not be considered for this contest. Each student will discuss the following four points:

1. Origin of the Structure
2. Historical & Cultural Significance of the Structure
3. Importance of Preserving the Structure
4. Impact of Historic Preservation

LIST OF HISTORIC SITES:

1. **U.S. Post Office** (152 N. Front Street, Wilmington, NC 28401)
 - a. *Like many historic post offices around the nation, was built during the New Deal era and features a mural financed through the Treasury Department.*
2. **Maides Cemetery** (next to the Maides Park baseball field, 1101 Manly Avenue, Wilmington, NC)
 - a. *Maides Cemetery is a historic African-American cemetery with graves dating back to the 19th century.*
3. **Love & Charity Hall - Site of Daily Record (demolished)** (419 S. 7th Street, Wilmington, NC)
 - a. *Headquarters for the Love & Charity Benevolent Association next to St. Luke's AME Church. The hall was burned by a white supremacist mob during the Coup d'etat of 1898.*
4. **Cold Morning** (Echo Farms, New Hanover County)
 - a. *Cold Morning (31NH28) is a unique ossuary excavated in New Hanover County. It is located just south of Wilmington on a relict sand dune near Barnard's Creek, a few hundred feet north of where the creek empties into the Cape Fear.*
5. **Seabreeze** (Freeman's Beach, New Hanover County)
 - a. *Located just north of Carolina Beach, Seabreeze was one of the few beach resorts open to Black people on the Eastern Seaboard between 1920 the the 19060s. Now it is an unincorporated, predominantly Black community.*
6. **Fort Johnston** (Visitor Center located at 203 E. Bay Street, Southport, NC)
 - a. *Named for Provincial Governor Gabriel Johnston, Fort Johnston was the first fort constructed in the state of North Carolina. Built in 1749 by the British to defend the area from the French and Spanish, the fort was later used as a U.S. Army post.*
7. **Captain Charlie's Station** (Captain Charlie's Light Station Park, Bald Head Island, NC)
 - a. *These three cottages housed the keepers (and their families) of Cape Fear Light Station, which operated on Bald Head Island from 1903 until 1958. Although the lighthouse was destroyed, the keepers' cottages remain.*
8. **Navassa Guano Factory** (Brunswick County)
 - a. *Built in 1869 at Meares' Bluff on the northwest branch of the Cape Fear River five miles from Wilmington. This location was chosen because the geographic features allowed the construction, in 1867, of a railroad bridge across the Cape Fear at what would become Navassa.*
9. **Towers at Topsail Beach** (Topsail Beach, NC)
 - a. *From 1946 to 1948, the U.S. government began a program, Operation Bumblebee, to test rockets for use in modern jet propulsion, spacecraft, and missiles. The military research team built several towers on Topsail Island for this purpose, and many remain standing, having been remodeled into homes or incorporated into larger structures.*
10. **Cypress Trees on the Black River** (Pender County)

- a. *These bald cypress trees are the oldest trees in eastern North America, including an especially ancient one that is more than 1,600 years old, named Methuselah.*

Research:

Students should make every reasonable effort to visit their selected structure at least one time. In doing so, students must ensure that they observe hours of operation, and that for any non-public structure, they contact the facility ahead of time for permission.

In addition, students are encouraged to use print materials, interviews, online materials, etc. Students must use good judgment in determining the validity of any source upon which they rely, and are particularly cautioned to be careful to verify online resources!

Judging Criteria:

In general, students will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Content (60%)
 - a. Explanation of Four Speaking Points:
 - i. Origin of the Structure
 - ii. Historical & Cultural Significance of the Structure
 - iii. Importance of Preserving the Structure
 - iv. Impact of Historic Preservation
 - b. Strength of Introduction & Conclusion
 - c. Originality
2. Presentation (40%)
 - a. Voice: projection, clarity, and confidence
 - b. Style: grammar, syntax, word choice
 - c. Poise: posture, eye contact, gestures
 - d. Pacing & Delivery

Application Instructions:

Complete the attached application and submit it to scholarships@historicwilmington.org on or before October 12, 2023.

Attire for Presentation:

Please dress in business professional attire, which includes: suits, dresses, slacks, skirts, button-up shirts, blouses, blazers, dress shoes, etc. *(If you have trouble acquiring these items, no worries! Simply contact the staff of HWF for assistance: scholarships@historicwilmington.org.)*

Conduct:

Appropriate and respectful conduct is expected. Our judges will reserve the right to disqualify any student deemed to be behaving inappropriately, or presenting inappropriate subject matter, and remove any contestant or audience member for inappropriate behavior.

Questions:

Please direct all questions to scholarships@historicwilmington.org.

Above all, have fun! We look forward to your presentations!



**THE IMPACT OF PRESERVATION
2023 High School Scholarship Contest – APPLICATION**

Full Name of Student (First, Middle, Last):

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Current High School:

Current Grade Level:

Selected Structure:

- U.S. Post Office (Downtown Wilmington)
- Maides Cemetery
- Love & Charity Hall / Site of Daily Record (demolished)
- Cold Morning
- Seabreeze
- Fort Johnston
- Captain Charlie's Station
- Navassa Guano Factory (demolished)
- Towers at Topsail Beach
- Bald Cypress Trees on the Black River

Do you intend to utilize a digital, visual aid (e.g., PowerPoint) for your presentation? _____

Do you need any accessibility accommodations? If so, please describe. (We're here and happy to assist!)

I, the above listed student, hereby affirm that I have reviewed the terms for the contest, including the conduct and attire requirements, and that I will abide by all rules for this competition.

Signature

Date