

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER INTRODUCES FINAL ROUND OF CIVIC LITERACY CONTESTS
AWARDING \$175,000 TO THREE PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS,
INCREASING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTEST WINNINGS TO NEARLY \$600,000**

Philadelphia, PA (May 15, 2017) – The National Constitution Center invites public, charter, independent, and parochial school teachers in Philadelphia County to participate in the Center’s third and final round of Civic Literacy Contests.

The contest challenges middle and high school teachers and administrators to develop multi-year plans to improve constitutional literacy by engaging their schools with the National Constitution Center’s [Interactive Constitution](#). The best plans will earn cash prizes to implement the ideas in their schools and be shared nationally with schools across the country. Teachers and school administrators are asked to develop lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and teaching materials that will be used and support the Center’s *Interactive Constitution* within their classroom and school to enhance student learning. **The submission deadline for the final Civic Literacy Contest is June 1, 2017.**

The three winning schools from the final round will receive cash prizes of \$100,000 for first place, \$50,000 for second place, and \$25,000 for third place.

The Center will host a series of workshops that will provide teachers and administrators with hands-on support in the development of their submissions. Only one application accepted per school. Click here for the [Civic Literacy Contest Entry Criteria, Workshop Dates, Deadlines, and Past Winning Proposals](#).

Short Story Contests

The third and final round of the Coalition of Freedom Short Story Contest is also underway. Open to 11th grade students at public, charter, independent, and parochial schools, as well as registered home school programs, the contest challenges students to bring a moment in U.S. history to life by applying narrative writing skills while incorporating important concepts of our Founding Documents: the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. Click here for the [Coalition of Freedom Short Story Entry Criteria, Deadlines, and Writing Prompt](#).

Past Contests Included Essay and Playwriting

In the past, National Constitution Center contests for students have also included the Founding Freedoms Essay and Playwriting Contests. The essay and playwriting contests invited 6th, 8th, and 12th grade students across the United States to submit an essay in response to a grade-specific prompt about our Founding Documents for the chance to win a cash prize. Twelfth grade students also had the option of writing a play that, if chosen as the winning submission, would be performed live at the National Constitution Center by professional actors. The play prompt asked students to imagine how Mrs. Elizabeth Willing Powel, wife of Philadelphia’s mayor, would have responded to Benjamin Franklin’s comment, “A republic, if you can keep it,” when she asked him “Dr. Franklin, what have you given us?” on the day the Constitutional Convention concluded.

By September 2017, the National Constitution Center will have awarded nearly \$600,000 to schools in Philadelphia and students and teachers nationwide for their commitment to promoting constitutional education. From 2015-2017, the Civic Literacy Contests were made possible thanks to a multi-year, multi-project \$5.5 million grant awarded from the John Templeton Foundation.

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis." As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

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