

## Booker T. Washington - American Hero Essay Contest



Here's a great way to motivate young ones in your community to live, learn, and lead successfully, regardless of their circumstances: co-sponsor an essay contest!

**"After reading about Booker T. Washington and obstacles in his life,  
what have you learned and how will you meet challenges in your own life?"**

Imagine the inspiration and 'spark' you will provide to the future leaders and workers in your own community. Here are the rules, prizes, and how to go about it... It's easy!

### Contest Rules

- 1) Open to 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.
- 2) 15 students (min) in any one grade from any one school to participate.
- 3) Essays must be typed on no more than 2 pages.  
(5-6th graders, est. 250-300 words; 7-8th graders, est. 300-350 words.)
- 4) Essays will be judged by grade within the school.  
(Note: to insure local peer-to-peer evaluations, a local service club,  
(such as Rotary or Kiwanis), is asked to co-sponsor and judge.

### Contest Prizes

- 1) Essay Winner Award: \$50, Runner-up: \$25.
- 2) Awards and Certificates will be presented by local co-sponsoring organization.
- 3) Winning essays may be displayed on the BTW Society's national website.

### How it works:

If you are a parent, principal, teacher, local service club member...

- 1) Contact the Society to register and obtain more information.\*
- 2) Contact a school Principal, guidance counselor, or teacher in your area to offer this essay contest to their students *at no cost to them!*
- 3) Order your *BTW--American Hero* booklets (min bulk order: 15 @ \$2 ea.)
- 4) Contact a local community service club to co-sponsor by,
  - a) providing judges to read the essays and/or,
  - b) purchasing *BTW-American Hero* booklets or providing prizes.

*\*If unfamiliar with schools or service clubs in your area, just contact the Society.*

*We will compile and send you a list of local schools/service orgs with contact info.*

### Conducting the Contest:

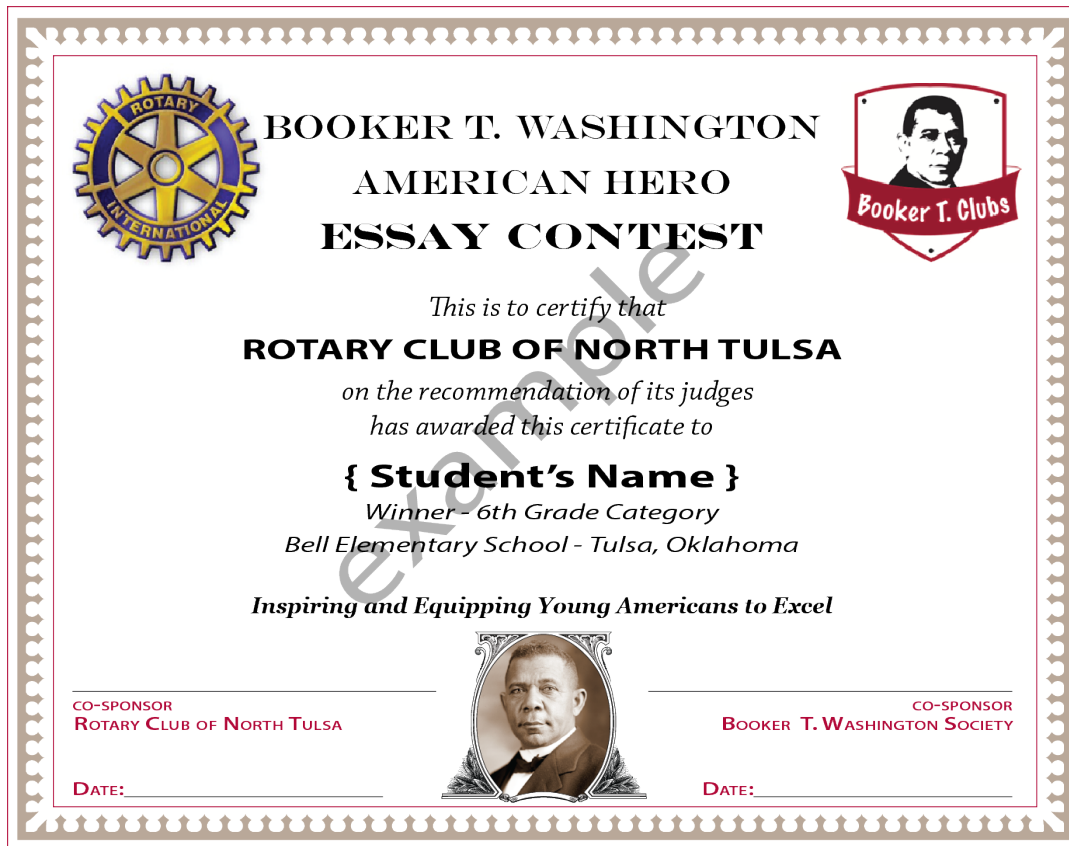
- 1) Announce contest with essay deadline.
- 2) Give a copy of *BTW--American Hero* to each student who chooses to enter.  
(*be sure to allow 2-3 weeks for student to read about BTW and write essay.*)
- 3) Students hand essays in to teacher.
- 4) Teacher forwards essays to you and/or service club.
- 5) Service club 'jury' picks the winners and notifies school and BTW Society.
- 6) BTW Society will mail certificates *with co-sponsor's service club's logo* for their presentation during a school assembly or other appropriate time/place.
- 7) Co-sponsor club or organization issues news release.

**And....it is beneficial to all concerned!**

**Children** benefit from learning, thinking, and writing about living right.

**Schools** benefit from reinforcing the development of positive character habits.

**Service Clubs** benefit from helping children in their community *and* positive publicity:



The certificate is framed with a decorative border. On the left is the Rotary International logo. On the right is a portrait of Booker T. Washington with a red banner below it that says "Booker T. Clubs". The text is centered and reads: "BOOKER T. WASHINGTON AMERICAN HERO ESSAY CONTEST". Below this, it says "This is to certify that ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH TULSA on the recommendation of its judges has awarded this certificate to { Student's Name } Winner - 6th Grade Category Bell Elementary School - Tulsa, Oklahoma". At the bottom, it says "Inspiring and Equipping Young Americans to Excel". There are two "DATE:" fields with lines for writing, one on the left and one on the right. In the center, between the date lines, is a portrait of Booker T. Washington. Above the left date line is the text "CO-SPONSOR ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH TULSA" and above the right date line is "CO-SPONSOR BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SOCIETY".

(sample: actual size: 11" x 8.5")

*The BTW Society is a 501(c) (3), non-partisan, non-profit, educational organization, dedicated to inspiring and equipping young Americans to excel. The Society neither solicits nor accepts government funding. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.*

*For more information:*

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