



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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Memorial  
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St. Louis, Missouri 63123  
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## **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial & Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site News Release**

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### **What Does Freedom Mean to You?**

*Student Art Contest Commemorates 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation*

ST LOUIS, MO-- Calling all teenage film makers, poets, and photographers! The National Park Service, in partnership with the National Park Foundation's African American Experience Fund, today launched *Expressions of Freedom*, a nationwide artistic competition to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Contest submissions will be accepted from students 13 to 18 years old in three categories – photography, poetry, and digital short films. The first-place winner in each category will receive a \$2,500 academic scholarship and the second-place winner will receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship. The deadline for entries is October 15, 2012. Details are available at <http://www.nps.gov/freedom>.

“The issue that was at the heart of the Civil War – the continual struggle for equality for all – remains relevant today,” said Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. “This contest encourages young people to reflect on their own personal meanings of freedom and creatively express those thoughts.”

*Expressions of Freedom* is designed to connect student artists to the significance of the American Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the system of national parks that commemorate events associated with the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. The two National Park units in the St. Louis area are connected with the Civil War and may provide inspiration for the development of entries.

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial includes the Old Courthouse, a building at the center of controversy over the slavery issue. It was the scene of the first trials in the Dred Scott case, a major cause of the Civil War. The Scott case was one of over 300 lawsuits launched by African Americans for freedom in the Old Courthouse, which also witnessed over 1,000 emancipations, trials of free persons, both black and white, charged with helping slaves escape on the Underground Railroad, and hundreds of tragic slave auctions on its steps. To learn about education programs or resources associated with this contest, contact Julie Northrip in the Education Department at 314-655-1615.

Ulysses S. Grant is known as a general during the Civil War and a United States President. However, many people are surprised to learn about the many ways he supported the rights of African Americans during the war and as president. Those stories, and more, are told at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. The park staff is willing to help student artists research subjects to add depth to their projects.

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial includes the Gateway Arch and Historic Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis. The Gateway Arch Visitor Center is open 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. daily through Labor Day and the Old Courthouse is open daily 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Visit the park website for more information at [www.nps.gov/jeff](http://www.nps.gov/jeff).

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is located at 7400 Grant Road in south St. Louis County. The park is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Visit the park website for more information at [www.nps.gov/ulsg](http://www.nps.gov/ulsg).

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