

Theme for the 2006 Contest:
**“Aviation Heroes—
A Celebration of African-Americans
in the Armed Services,
Past and Present”**

This year's theme focuses on the achievements of African-Americans in the armed services and the inspiration they provide to the next generation of aviation professionals. Students in grades five through 12 are invited to submit a 500-word essay that includes answers to three questions:

1. Name and explain the significance or contribution of a person and his or her accomplishments to African-Americans in the armed services, past or present. The hero you choose can be a famous person from the past or present or someone known to you personally, such as a family member or neighbor;
2. Name a career in the field of aviation and describe the responsibilities of that job and the education and experience required to pursue that job;
3. Name three things that you can do today to prepare for a career in aviation.

Getting started:

- Part 1: The armed services provided an introduction to aviation for many African-Americans throughout the years. Some of these heroes' stories are well known, such as the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen. Some may not be as well known, such as the accomplishments of a neighbor or family member. Now is the opportunity to tell the story of a member of the armed forces who worked in the area of aviation that inspires you.
- Part 2: More than 50,000 people work at O'Hare and Midway International airports. There are pilots, flight attendants, accountants, architects, engineers, information technology professionals, writers, artists, chefs, electricians and more. With over 100 different types of jobs at an airport, there is something for every area of interest and skill. Students are encouraged to conduct interviews and gather oral histories to add depth to the learning value of this project.
- Part 3: The Experimental Aircraft Association and the Tuskegee Airmen offer free plane rides to youths from ages 7 to 17; doing well in math and science can help prepare you for higher education in the field of aviation; learning a foreign language can prepare you for world travel...take a look at your interests and dreams and look at things you can do now to help bring you closer.
- Be sure to respond to all three areas.

Deadline: February 7, 2006

For more information contact:

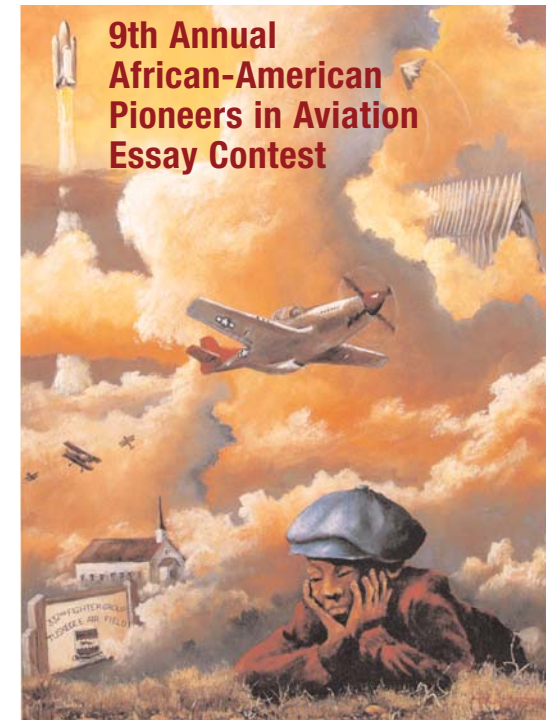
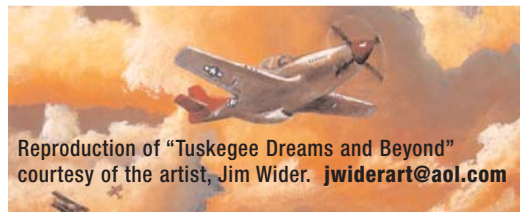
Chicago Department of Aviation

Phone (773) 686-7492

Fax (773) 686-6221

Email tgibson@cityofchicago.org

www.flychicago.com/events



"Tuskegee Dreams and Beyond," by Jim Wider

**“Aviation Heroes—
A Celebration of
African-Americans
in the Armed Forces,
Past and Present”**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor
City of Chicago

“Aviation Heroes— A Celebration of African- Americans in the Armed Services, Past and Present”

Celebrate Black History Month
with the Chicago Airport System!

Founded in 1997, the Annual African American Pioneers in Aviation Essay Contest invites students to write about an African American hero or heroine in aviation, including the Tuskegee Airmen or others who shaped aviation, and those who are making aviation history today. This year's contest also asks students to research real careers in aviation and to look at things he or she can do today to get started. Essays should be 500 words, and must include responses to all three parts: history, careers, and what you can do to get started.

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded in each of three categories: 5th-6th grade; 7th-9th grade; 10th-12th grade

1st Prize:

Round-trip airline tickets for two people to any scheduled destination in the United States.

2nd Prize:

A \$200 savings bond, courtesy of the Tuskegee Airmen, DODO Chapter.

3rd Prize:

\$100 savings bond, courtesy of the Air Force Association.

Certificates of recognition will be sent to teachers for distribution to all participating students.

Sponsored by:

The Chicago Airport System in cooperation with the Tuskegee Airmen DODO Chapter, the Chicago Public Schools, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, Wright College, the Air Force Association, the Conference on Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), the Chicago Defender and the FAA Great Lakes Region.

Eligibility:

All children in the specified grade groups are encouraged to participate in the contest.

Age Groups:

Entries will be judged in three grade categories: 5th-6th grade, 7th-9th grade, and 10th-12th grade

Address for Entries:

All entries should be compiled by teachers and sent with a Teacher's Essay Contest Cover Sheet to:

Department of Aviation
Promotions, Terminal 2, Mezzanine
Chicago O'Hare International Airport
P.O. Box 66142
Chicago, IL 60666

Rules and a Teacher's Essay Contest Cover Sheet are also available on-line at www.flychicago.com/events.

Deadline:

All entries must be received at the Department of Aviation by **February 7, 2006.**

Entries become the property of the City of Chicago and will not be returned. The three finalists in each category will be invited to read their essay before a panel of judges prior to an awards ceremony for winners, their families, teachers, principals, and original members of the Tuskegee Airmen. The details for the finalist judging and awards ceremony will be sent to schools with finalists on February 15. The Chicago Defender will publish the winning essays in the Bud Billiken News.

For more information contact:

Chicago Department of Aviation

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Email tgibson@cityofchicago.org

www.flychicago.com/events

Entry Form

Please type or print all information.

Format: The required format is typewritten, double-spaced, single sided, 500 words or less. All entries must be clearly legible.

Markings: The following details should be clearly shown on the back of each page of the essay:

Title of Essay: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Phone: _____

Name of school which child attends:

Address of school (include ZIP):

Teacher: _____

Principal: _____

School Phone: _____

Certificate of Authenticity Stating:

I/we certify that this is the original and unassisted work of _____

Certificates are to be signed by the entrant's teacher, parent or guardian.

Signature of teacher, parent or guardian
