



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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PRESS RELEASE

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Texas history essay winner gets high-tech recognition

Best essay wins round-trip airline tickets and a two-night, fun-filled weekend in San Antonio

AUSTIN — Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, will use cutting-edge technology Tuesday when he congratulates the winner of the Save Texas History Essay Contest via a live, two-way video conference with the Houston-area seventh-grader's class.

The winner, selected from more than 1,000 entries submitted from across the state, will win round-trip airline tickets and a two-night, fun-filled weekend in San Antonio.

“This should be an exciting moment,” Patterson said. “This is the first Save Texas History essay contest winner, and the first time we’ve used this Web technology. It truly is history in the making.”

In December, Patterson called on Texas seventh-graders to take advantage of their knowledge of Texas history and submit an essay about their favorite place in the Lone Star State. The Texas Travels Essay Contest was sponsored by the Texas General Land Office Save Texas History program and Southwest Airlines.

The subject for the essay was the story of a Texas city, big or small. Students were asked to write a 500-700 word paper about the historical significance of the place they chose and give reasons why it was important to the development of Texas.

While all Texas seventh-grade students study Texas history, Patterson said he hopes that asking students to write about the history of places close to their hearts will help make their stories come alive.

On Tuesday, one grand prize winner will receive round-trip airline tickets for four to San Antonio from any Southwest Airlines Texas destination, accommodations for two nights at a hotel near the Riverwalk, a VIP tour of the Alamo, and tickets for additional attractions. Ten finalists will win Save Texas History backpacks, a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Patterson and a historic map replica from the Land Office Archives collection.

For more details, visit SaveTexasHistory.org .

WHO: Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office
WHAT: Two-way videoconference announcing the winner of the 2009 Save Texas History Essay Contest
WHEN: 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 14
WHERE: Room 840A, Stephen F. Austin Building, 17th Street and Congress Avenue
WHY: To honor and promote the appreciation of Texas history.

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