

Timberwolves launch creative contest celebrating influential leaders in Black History

Written by

Monday, 02 February 2009 16:28

The Timberwolves FastBreak Foundation this recently launched the fourth annual "Who Inspires You?" creative contest in celebration of inspirational black leaders in American history. Presented by KSTC Channel 45, the contest invites all middle school and high school students from across the state to submit a creative work illustrating how their choice inspires them to be a better leader today.

"There are so many amazing figures in African American history and the Timberwolves are proud to play a role in sharing their stories and celebrating their accomplishments," Timberwolves President Chris Wright said. "This great contest gives our young fans a unique opportunity not only to express their creativity, but also to educate themselves and hopefully become inspired to incorporate the lessons that they learn into their daily lives."

Submissions to the "Who Inspires You?" contest can be in the form of an essay, poem or piece of artistic expression (painting, sculpture, etc.), with one winner selected from each category. Entries must be received by Friday, Feb. 13 and can be submitted to: Timberwolves FastBreak Foundation, 600 First Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55403 or via e-mail at fastbreakfoundation@timberwolves.com.

This year's three winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Atlanta from March 22-24 to visit historical sites including the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where Dr. King began his career as a minister. The three winners will also be invited to see the Wolves take on the Atlanta Hawks at Philips Arena on March 23. Winners will be announced during the Wolves game vs. Portland on February 27.

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Last year's winning entries included an essay on Frederick Douglass from Halie Chelstrom (Champlin Park High School), a poem about Billie Holiday from Katie Hardin (Skyview Middle School in Oakdale) and a sculpture of Martin Luther King Jr. from Heather Mohr (Fred Moore Middle School, Anoka).

Each February, the FastBreak Foundation's Black History Month Initiative celebrates the lives and accomplishments of influential black leaders in our community and throughout history. In addition to the "Who Inspires You?" creative contest, Timberwolves Black History Month initiatives include traveling black history celebrations at area middle schools, a \$10,000 grant presentation, and the in-arena recognition of local Black heroes at all February home games.