

2026 BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEECH CONTEST

INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to all members of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church between the ages of 8 through 18 years.

PRESENTATION: Presenters must arrive by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.

JUDGING for Ages 8 to 13: Judges are looking for familiarity of content and overall presentation.

JUDGING for Ages 14 to 18: Judges are looking for content, tools of language, originality, imagination, depth of concept, pose, appearance and overall excellence.

AWARDS

FIRST PLACE ESSAY	\$200.00
RUNNER UP ESSAY	\$100.00
SPECIAL RECOGNITION POEM	\$100.00
ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AWARDED	\$50.00

REQUIREMENTS

POEMS: Contestants ages 8 to 13 will compete by presenting orally a poem of five or more stanzas written by an African American author.

ESSAYS: Contestants ages 14 to 18 will compete by writing and presenting a five to seven paragraph essay, on the theme, "Where Do We Go From Here?"

SUBMISSION OF ENTRY

POEM or ESSAY: Must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 14, 2026, to Cheryl Brown by email (chocolatebrown_1@outlook.com).

COVER PAGE: Must accompany each submission. The Cover Page must include: First and Last Name, Age, Grade Level in School, Parent Name, Phone Number and the Title of Poem or Essay.

FORMAT: Submission must be in WORD or PDF format.

PROOFREAD: It is recommended that your submission has been proofread and submitted without editing corrections.

ESSAY: All writing must be original.

