



St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Contest

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America values the history of its Church and people in America. The first Greek known to have arrived on U.S. soil Don Theodoro. He served on the crew with the Narváez expedition which according to its ship log of 1528, anchored in what is known today as Tampa Bay, Florida.

250 years later, 500 Greeks with their priest, Father Crisanthos, arrived in St. Augustine, Florida. Andrew Turnbull contracted them and 900 other people from Mediterranean countries under the British Indentured Servitude Act. They would be granted freedom after 7 years of working a 100,000 acres tract into a profitable plantation. Today, the city of New Smyrna Beach is founded on the remnants of this highly successful, yet failed, indigo plantation.

The Shrine is built in the memory of the Greek Orthodox colonists. Why? Write a 1000-word essay showcasing your understanding of what happened in 1777 to the survivors of the New Smyrna Colony. Why are they remembered in St. Augustine? Why is the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine built in the Avero House? Why is it called a living memorial?

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The St. Photios Foundation invites **all teens, 13 to 19 years of age**, to research and prepare a 1000-word essay. The Essay Committee accepts submissions through December 31, 2017. The committee sends blind copies of the essays to three judges on January 3rd. They are ranked and returned to the Committee by January 25th.

Results will be posted by February 1, 2018.

Prizes are awarded to the top ranking three:

1st place wins \$500

2nd place wins \$250

3rd place wins \$100

All essays become the property of the St. Photios Foundation. Please email your essay with a cover sheet detailing your home parish, name, address and phone number.

The Shrine Essay Program is made possible through the generosity of the Estate of Kathie D'Anna in memory of her husband Carmine. It is sponsored also by the AHEPA Speedway Chapter #410.