

Eleventh Episcopal District  
**YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION**  
of the  
Women's Missionary Society  
African Methodist Episcopal Church



**VIRTUAL CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES**

**Theme: The Glow Up!**

**We Were Broken, Now it's Time to Shine!**

**Matthew 5:16**

**February 12-14, 2021**

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## **MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BLACK HERITAGE WEEKEND**

### **1. What is the Black Heritage Weekend?**

The Black Heritage Weekend is an activity sponsored by the 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Young People's and Children's Division (YPD) of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a weekend of activities designed to promote high self-esteem, academic achievement, and spiritual growth, while focusing on our African-American and Bahamian heritage.

Under the leadership of Ms. Sanjena V. Clay, this event was initiated in 1987 with 600 young people participating. Since that time the number of participants has increased to over 3,000, and the event has been held in many places across the state of Florida.

Traditionally, during a weekend in February, young people exhibit their talents in poetry, monologue, spelling, visual art/poster, oration, vocal/instrumental/dance performances, chess and essay writing. Competitive events are divided into age categories with first, second, and third place winners selected from each event and age category. Conference team competitions include drama, cheerleading, brain bowl, basketball, volleyball, kickball and flag football.

The weekend culminates with Sankofa (service of praise and thanksgiving).

The service is planned and carried out by members of the YPD.

### **2. Who is eligible to participate?**

Any YPDer between the ages of 2 and 26 is eligible to participate in the Black Heritage Weekend competitive events. **The competitor's age category is based on his or her age on the competition day.**

### **3. When and where will the Black Heritage weekend convene?**

As a result, Covid 19, this year's activities will be held virtually on Friday, February 12, 2021 through Sunday, February 14, 2021.

### **4. What must I do to register for participation?**

The local YPD Director must register ALL competitors and observers during the

**Registration period: January 15, 2021 through January 30, 2021.**

- a. Visit [www.blackheritageweekend.com](http://www.blackheritageweekend.com) and click on the "Black Heritage Weekend" link to see the Criteria and Guidelines, Brain Bowl Questions and the Registration form.
- b. **Remit NON-REFUNDABLE payment of \$15.00 for each competitor and observer through the online registration process.**

5. **How many events may I compete?**

No one should sign up for more than 2 events.

The Conference Director must approve your participation in the conference/team sporting events.

**When selecting events, PLEASE be mindful of time conflicts.**

6. **What should I wear?**

Remember, this is a church event and clothing should be appropriate for young Christian males and females.

On Friday, February 12, 2021, you are encouraged to wear casual clothing with your Episcopal District or Conference T-shirt. On Saturday, February 13, 2021, you are encouraged to wear Conference T-shirt. The YPD colors (forest green and white or black and white) are strongly encouraged to show our unity; however, Conferences may use alternate colors for the Conference competitions. On Sunday, February 14, 2021, African or Bahamian garb should be worn for the Sankofa Service.

7. **What does the registration fee include?**

The registration fee includes an ALL ACCESS pass to BHW events and your Black Heritage Weekend competition schedule for competitor's. Observers will only have access to the following: Friday night service, Brain Bowl competition, Saturday night event, and Sunday service.

8. **Will I receive an award if I win?**

All participants will receive a certificate of participation. The First, Second, and Third place winners from each room, based on age category will receive award medallions. Award medallions will be given to Conference Team winners.

Awards list will be posted on the Black Heritage Weekend website [www.blackheritageweekend.com](http://www.blackheritageweekend.com) by February 20, 2021.

**IMPORTANT!!!**

Youth are expected to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner. NO profanity or disrespectful behavior or comments will be tolerated. This event is sponsored by our youth organization and we expect all young people in attendance to represent the AME Church in a positive, disciplined and Christian manner. Remember, we do not limit the number of youth who attend, but we do encourage and prefer **QUALITY AS OPPOSED TO QUANTITY.**

**BLACK HERITAGE WEEKEND  
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021** -- Supporting Documents Due (Poems, Photography, Pictures of Posters and Orations)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021** -- 10:00 a.m. – Final Planning Meeting  
Virtual-- Meeting for Coordinators, Episcopal YPD Officers and Conference YPD Officers

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021** -- 12:00 p.m. – Judges’ Briefing  
6:00 p.m. – Judges’ Briefing

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Place</b>
7:00 p.m.	Black Heritage Weekend Pep-Rally	Virtual

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Place</b>
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Morning Inspirations and Review of Schedule	Virtual

**COMPETITIONS**

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Creative Drawing and Scavenger Hunt	Virtual
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Black Poetry	Virtual
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Oratorical	Virtual
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Essay Writing	Virtual
12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.	Brain Bowl	Virtual

**BHW CHRISTIAN BLOCK PARTY AND MORE**

6:30 p.m.— 8:00 p.m.	Pep and Praise Christian Block Party and more...	Virtual
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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Place</b>
10:00 a.m.	Sankofa (Worship Experience)	Virtual

## **NON-COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

### **CREATIVE DRAWING CONTEST (Ages 2-6)**

A coordinator will read a story about a black person(s) to young people. After hearing the story, each child will be asked to draw and color a picture which pictorially relates to the story they have heard. The creative drawings will not be judged. Each participant will receive a special award medal.

### **SCAVENGER HUNT (Ages 2-6)**

Youth will participate in a series of challenging exercises. The exercises may include gathering or locating items, running, walking, jumping, pulling, pushing, and balancing, with the aim of testing creativity and listening skills.

After completing the course, ALL participants will receive a prize medal.

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## **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIVE EVENTS**

### **POSTER CONTEST (Ages 2-6 and 7-12)**

**Theme: The Glow UP!  
We've Been Broken, Now It's Time to Shine**

Matthew 5:16 NIV

Participants will upload their posters for judging by January 30, 2021 via registration website. All posters will be received in PDF/JPEG/PNG format. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that his or her poster is received on time.

Posters will be judged on:

- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| • Adherence to the theme | 40 points  |
| • Color contrast         | 25 points  |
| • Form and space         | 25 points  |
| • Neatness               | 10 points  |
| Total                    | 100 points |

**FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY  
(Ages 11-26)**

**Age Categories 11-13, 14-17 and 18-26**

**Theme: The Glow UP!  
We've Been Broken, Now It's Time to Shine  
Matthew 5:16 NIV**

Fine Art Photography is defined as photographic compositions created solely to express the aesthetic vision of the artist. Photographs will be judged for their beauty, composition, meaningfulness and technical skill.

Participants will upload their photographs for judging by January 30, 2021 via registration website. All photographs will be received in PDF/JPEG/PNG format. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that his or her photograph is received on time.

Size limits are strictly enforced.

**Photographs will be judged on:**

**Technical criteria**

- Exposure Focus/sharpness
- Depth of field
- Color and/or tonal rendition
- Contrast
- Lighting

**Visual and aesthetic criteria**

- Choice of viewpoint
- Background
- Design elements and principles
- Appropriate application of photographic and/or manipulative techniques
- Visual impact

**Content**

- Information
- Emotion
- Mood
- Feeling
- Denotative and connotative content, symbolism, metaphor
- Meaning
- Communication through the language of photography and visual art
- The moment



- Relevance
- Subject impact
- Viewer's response**
- Visual
- Aesthetic
- Intellectual
- Emotional
- Excitement
- Interest

**General characteristics**

- Originality
- Style
- Context
- Photographic vision
- Empathy
- Insight

**BLACK POETRY CONTEST**  
(Ages 2-26)

Contestants **will memorize and recite a poem written by a Black or Bahamian author**. Contestants may also write, memorize and recite their own poems. The recitation should not exceed three (3) minutes.

Some suggested authors:	Paul Lawrence Dunbar	Maya Angelou
	Countee Cullen	Mona Lake Jones
	Langston Hughes	Gwendolyn Brooks
	Arna Bontemps	James Weldon Johnson

**Age Categories**

Ages 2-4      Ages 5-7      Ages 8-10      Ages 11-13      Ages 14-17      Ages 18-26

**Guidelines**

1. Each contestant will be judged on the following:
 

• Voice Delivery	30 points
• Speaker audience contact	20 points
• Enunciation	20 points
• Pronunciation	10 points
• Originality of delivery	10 points
• Poise	5 points
• Overall appearance	<u>5 points</u>
Total	100 points
2. Each contestant must respect and acknowledge the judges.
3. An automatic 5 points will be deducted if:

- a. The contestant recites the poem over or starts over
- b. The contestant exceeds the time limit

**The contestant's poem** must be submitted via the registration website by January 30, 2021. Failure to upload a poem will result in a penalty (i.e., 20 points deducted from total score). **The contestant's name, age, church, pastor's name, and Conference YPD Director's name must be located at the bottom of the poem.** There are no exceptions to this rule.

Props may be used to enhance the delivery, such as an old woman's dress, walking cane, baby dolls, brooms, dishes, shawl, head tie, scarves, or whatever it takes to get your poem over to the judges.



## ORATORICAL CONTEST (Ages 7-26)

Scripture: Matthew 5:16 ESV

### GUIDELINES

**Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16** Explanation: Jesus says that what should be seen are the good deeds that we perform. Jesus' instruction is to take on His identity as that will bring glory to God in heaven. God intends for the world to be able to see God through those who worship God and whose lives reflect a relationship with God. The fifth chapter of Matthew is sometimes referred to as the "Sermon on the Mount." The main focus is on Jesus educating His disciples as He begins preaching on the mountain top to the masses of people who have gathered to hear him. The beginning of his message outlines who is blessed and why they receive these blessings. It is in the blessings that we see the Glow Up from God in our lives.

### GUIDELINES:

1. Contestants will write and recite an oration in response to the questions posed in the appropriate age category. Our Black Heritage Weekend theme this year is "The Glow Up: We were Broken, Now, it's Time to Shine."
2. ALL ORATIONS MUST BE MEMORIZED. No notes are allowed (20 points will be deducted if notes are utilized).
3. Contestants will deliver a speech in a formal and dignified manner. The contestant must start and complete the oration within three minutes.
4. Orations will be judged by at least three judges on the following areas (100 points total):
  - Content (30 points)
  - Clarity (20 points)
  - Expression (10 points)
  - Adherence to Time Limit (5 points)
  - Memorization (20 points)
  - Poise (10 points)
  - Eye Contact (5 points)

**Total (100 points)**

### ORATORICAL CONTEST PROMPT FOR AGES 7 – 10 YEARS OLD

Allenites, do you know the shortest verse in the Bible? Look it up, but I will stop and tell you now. The shortest verse in the Bible is “Jesus wept,” which is found in John 11:35. It is only two words, but it lets us know that Jesus had deep feelings like you do. We serve one that understand us. He has been there and experienced things in life like we have. Sometimes you have deep feelings that hurt so bad that you cry. It is okay to cry. When it seems like there isn’t anyone else who can understand how you feel, you are not alone. Jesus is always with you. In your oration, tell the listeners of a time when you just “cried your heart out!” What did you do? Did you think to pray to Jesus? Did He direct you to an adult that He knew would understand your pain? How did the problem get solved? How did you move from sadness to JOY? Explain to the listeners how you feel knowing that God is always near. How does this knowledge make you feel? Use at least one scripture to explain your answer.

### ORATORICAL CONTEST PROMPT FOR AGES 11 – 12 YEARS OLD

As you grow older and go through many stages, 11 years old to 12 years old, and then 13 years old when you become a teenager, a lot of changes are taking place in your life during those stages. Do you understand the new you? Are you doubtful of what you know how to do? There is an old saying: “Don’t put limits on our God!” **Whatever you need God’s got it!** So many times, we let self-doubt inhibit our true abilities. Have you seen how our YPD officers, boldly get up and lead thousands of young people at Black Heritage Weekend? Well, they were once your age. I believe that each of our 11-12 year old participants, will be bolder as the years go by, because God did not give you a spirit of fear. There is a verse in a song that says: His eyes are on the sparrow, and I know that He \_\_\_\_\_! I bet that you can finish that verse :) Knowing that God is our helper develops boldness into us. How old were you when you discovered that God is never absent from our thoughts? Our Father in heaven desires to see you do good things in your life. **In your oration, share with the listeners when you knew that God had given you the power to be bold and stand, do your best, and let your light shine.** Give two examples. Use one scripture to support your oration.

### ORATORICAL CONTEST PROMPT FOR AGES 13 – 17 YEARS OLD

There is so much expected of teenagers. Sometimes you get it from all sides: parents, grandparents, and other grown-ups...that just want you to **grow up! Act your age!** They want you to change something that you are doing. You may worry about letting them down, and that may leave you available to an attack from the enemy. The enemy loves to feed off our anxiety and destroy our trust in the Lord. Have you doubted yourself with all the what-ifs regarding the things that can go wrong? When did you learn to focus on what God promises? What are some things that you know God did to ease your mind? How did you recognize that it was God and not just luck? In your oration, share with the listeners what happened. How did you recognize that God helped you to shine? Explain what happened. Use at least two scriptures to support your oration. Conclude by telling us how it feels to let your light shine, because of the Jesus in you.

### ORATORICAL CONTEST PROMPT FOR AGES 18 -26 YEARS OLD

When we look back over our lives for over 33 years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District YPD’s signature annual gathering of Black Heritage Weekend (BHW), we get excited. This year for sure is a different year, one unlike any that we have experienced before. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are participating virtually. Can you believe it? We have heard over the years from our elders that “Where there is a will, there is a way.” Hallelujah! We will still be able to give God praises and show our thanks for how God continues to bless our young people and our leadership during BHW. We are reaping the benefits of the experiences that we have had and are still having from growing up in the A.M.E. Church in the work that you do today. In your oration, explain to the listeners how you were brought from Sunbeams to Youth Adults who have experienced the glow up as God has continued to shine through you. Use a main idea, two details, and two scriptures to show how others are able to see the God in you wherever you are.

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:**

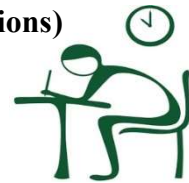
- Matthew 5:16 – In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (NIV)
- Psalms 55:22 – Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken. (NIV)
- Isaiah 43:1b – Do not fear, for I have redeemed; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. (NIV)
- Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (NKJV)
- Psalms 31:24 – Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord! (NRSV)

**ESSAY WRITING CONTEST**  
**(Ages 7-26)**

Competitors, ages 7-26, will write an interpretive, literary composition. The competitor will write essays with expectations appropriate to the age/grade.

**Age Categories (basic essay length recommendations)**

- Ages 7-10: 3-5 paragraphs
- Ages 11-13: 4-5 paragraphs
- Ages 14-17: 5 paragraphs
- Ages 18-26: 5 paragraphs



Essays must be submitted to the specific email address by the pre-determined deadline (For example: Submit your completed essay in Word, PDF or a scanned/photographed hand-written document on Saturday, February 13, 2021, between 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Essay prompts will be made available to competitors on the evening of Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 9:00 AM.)

**Guidelines**

Each competitor will be awarded points in the following areas:

1. Purpose and Organization: Does your essay have...
  - a an introduction
  - b a conclusion
  - c clearly formed paragraphs
  - d logical order
  - e transitions
2. Focus and Support: Does your essay have...
  - a support for your topic and main ideas
  - b mature vocabulary for your age
  - c sentence variety and voice
  - d on topic information
3. Conventions of Standard English: Does your essay...
  - a use correct capitalization and punctuation
  - b use correct spelling
  - c make sense when read aloud

For each criterion listed above, judges will score the essay on a scale of 1-6, with 6 being the highest score achievable.

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## CONFERENCE COMPETITIVE EVENT

### BRAIN BOWL COMPETITION AGES 7-12 AND 13-26

Each Conference will sponsor one team ages 7-12 and one team ages 13-26 consisting of not more than five members and three alternates (eight members total). Alternates will be used to replace team members if illness or other emergencies arise prior to or during the competition. At the discretion of the team coach they may be substituted into the competition between rounds or they may not be utilized at all.

Each Conference will designate a captain and a co-captain prior to the competition. The tournament schedule will be determined randomly utilizing “The Wheel of Names” before the start of the competition to determine the order in which the teams will compete.

### *New set-up for Black Heritage Weekend Brain Bowl Competition*

Black Heritage Weekend Brain Bowl competition has been reformatted to speed the game up, make it more exciting, and to more closely mimic the types of academic competitions students might encounter if they are/were on a team in their school.

#### *Significant changes for this new format include:*

- Simultaneous competition in multiple (2) rooms in a round-robin format.
  - This makes the overall competition go a lot faster while also allowing more games to be played since an issue in the past was the prospects of a team only playing one game despite their level of practice and amount of team members. This means every team gets four games which also means coaches can play everyone even if they have a large amount of participants.

#### *Match Format*

- Each Match will consist of three rounds:
  - Round One – Team Questions – Any team member can answer questions in round one. Each team will have 5 minutes each to answer questions in this round. The team will be able to pass and move to the next question in round one. This will be a 10-minute round.
  - Round Two – Tossup Questions – Any team member can answer questions in this round, but must **wait** to be **recognized** by the host. Each team member will be able to answer tossups by “raising their hand” through the Zoom application. Five (5) seconds will be given as the allotted time to respond/answer a question in round two. This round will last for 10 minutes.

- Round Three - Team (Collaborative) Question – Teams will collaborate through technology (i.e. group text, Groupme, etc.). ALL Team Captains will submit their final answer directly to the host through the Zoom private chat. This will be a 5-minute round.

### **Basic Scoring**

- Team Questions in Round One will be worth 5 points each.
- Tossup Questions in Round Two will be worth 10 points each.
- Team Bonus Question in Round three will be worth 15 points each.
- In Round One – Questions will only be read once. The team member must begin his/her answer within 5 seconds after the reading of the question.
  - A team captain can request to pass and move to the next question during their allotted time of 5 minutes in round one.
- In Round Two - After the moderator has finished reading a tossup question, players from both teams will have 5 seconds to answer. The player who “raises their hand” to answer must wait until the host/moderator has called their name before saying their answer.
  - If one team gives an incorrect answer at this point, the other team has another 5 seconds in which to answer. The 5 seconds will be timed mentally by the moderator/timekeeper and he/she will use their discretion on when to call “time”.
- A player may signal to answer a tossup at any point after the moderator has begun reading the question. The moderator will stop reading the question as soon as a player has signaled.
- Only the player who signaled and is recognized by the moderator/host may give an answer. The recognized player must begin answering within 5 seconds after having been recognized. The moderator/timekeeper will use their discretion for how long 5 seconds is before calling “time”.
- If a player’s answer to a tossup is incorrect, or the 5-second period has expired, the moderator will, if necessary, finish reading the question for the other team.
  - If a player on the second team signals and answers correctly, the second team earns the points.
  - If the second team’s player gives an incorrect answer, or no player on the second team answers, the tossup goes dead AND the moderator will provide the correct answer and move on to the next tossup.
- The moderator will ask for additional information (also called a “prompt”) if an answer is correct but less complete than what is required, except for titles of works, which must usually be exact. Generally, last names of persons, or other commonly used names (“Obama,” “Beyoncé”) are sufficient.

Cellphones are only allowed to be used during the Round 3 collaboration bonus question.

# Tournament Schedule

## Round 1

Game #1  
Team 1 VS Team 4  
Team 2 VS Team 5  
Team 3 VS Team 6

Game #2  
Team 1 VS Team 5  
Team 2 VS Team 6  
Team 3 VS Team 4

Game #3  
Team 1 VS Team 6  
Team 2 VS Team 4  
Team 3 VS Team 5

## Round 2

Game #1  
Team 1 VS Team 3  
Team 2 VS Team 4

Game #2  
Team 1 VS Team 4  
Team 2 VS Team 3

Game #3  
Team 1 VS Team 2  
Team 3 VS Team 4

## Round 3

Game #1  
Team 1 VS Team 2

