



# **The Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania**

*Opening in Columbia, PA in 2028*

**Announces an**

## **ESSAY COMPETITION**

**For**

### **SCHOOL STUDENTS**

***Topic: The Underground Railroad***

*Identify a Columbia Underground Railroad participant(s).*

*~ What role did this person play? Why were they important? What inspires you about this person? Would you be willing to do what they did, etc.?*

**OR**

*Identify a Columbia Underground Railroad site(s).*

*~ Describe why its location might have been selected. Is it still visible today? How would freedom seekers reach the location? Where might they be coming from? Would it be a place where you would choose to hide, etc.?*

***Your answers should be based on research and/or interviews.***

*(Length: between 500 & 1000 words)*

***A Prize of \$250 will be awarded to the winner in each of the following categories: Grades 4-6; 7-9; and 10-12.***

***Winners will be recognized at a gala event for the Museum to be held at the Lancaster Marriott Hotel, September 12, 2026.***

***Submission deadline: May 15, 2026***

***Entry forms can be found at: [ugrrmuseumpa.org](http://ugrrmuseumpa.org)***