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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJTL Youth Essay Contest winners announced

NINE STATE WINNERS SELECTED FROM USTA SOUTHERN

PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA. – Nov. 6, 2023 – Nine United States Tennis Association (USTA) Southern youth have been awarded tennis trips based on their essays submitted to the 2023 USTA Foundation's National Essay Contest presented by Deloitte.

Of the more than 1,000 entries submitted in the national contest, 200 entries were from USTA Southern.

The Southern Section has named nine winners, one from each of the section's states. These juniors will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to Charleston, S.C., to attend the LTP \$100K Women's USTA Pro Circuit event on Daniel Island this week.

USTA supports young people with more than 250 National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) nonprofit chapters around the country, using tennis with the hope of teaching them the importance of character, getting an education and becoming productive citizens. There are 71 chapters in USTA Southern.

Winner	City, State	NJTL Chapter
Kaila Welch	Birmingham, Ala.	James Lewis Education & Tennis Foundation
Kristofer Glason	Little Rock, Ark.	Small is the New Big
Maasiai Sales	Fairburn, Ga.	South Clayton CTA
Brooklyn Middleton	Louisville, Ky.	Rising Stars of Kentucky Tennis
Zaria Curry	Shreveport, La.	Northwest Louisiana CTA
Deneen Mosley	Jackson, Miss.	Friends of Battlefield Park Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth Jikuri	Winston-Salem, N.C.	Kimberley Park Tennis Association
Scarlett Turnbull	Hilton Head Island, S.C.	Public Tennis, Inc.
Nathan Lee	Memphis, Tenn.	Tennis Memphis

Twenty-one chapters in USTA Southern participated in the 2023 Essay Contest with the Tennis Memphis NJTL submitting the most essays, followed by the Greensboro (N.C.) Tennis Program Foundation and the MACH Academy of Augusta, Ga.

The USTA Foundation announced 10 National Essay Contest Winners presented by Deloitte last month. The winners enjoyed an eventful weekend in New York City.

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To enter the contest, students were asked to answer the following question in an essay of fewer than 350 words. The question for the 2023 Essay Contest: "No matter what accomplishments you make, someone helped you." - Althea Gibson. In this quote, Gibson asks us to think about the people that supported your achievements. In your own words, what does this quote mean? Who from your NJTL chapter helped you, how did they help you, and what impact has this made on your tennis skill and/or life?

"Congratulations to our essay contest participants! The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams and it is our hope that this amazing opportunity helps that journey. We are so proud of our state essay winners," said USTA Southern Manager, NJTL & Foundation Jean Marie Simon.

Curry, the Louisiana winner, said, "I was so shocked I won, and I just kept asking my mom, 'Are you serious?' I'm so happy and excited to watch the pros play."

Noyana Middleton, mother of Brooklyn Middleton, the Kentucky winner, said, "We were incredibly proud of her. She truly loves tennis and is actually in the Journalism and Communications magnet at her school. So, writing is something she has enjoyed from a very early age. To be able to express herself about the sport she loves is remarkable."

For a gallery of national downloadable winners, click here:

[2023 NJTL Essay Contest winners inspired by Althea Gibson | Category - News | USTA Foundation](#)

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The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the US Open Series linking six summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns about 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic games. A not-for-profit organization with more than 515,000+ members, it invests 100 percent of its proceeds in growing the game. It is divided into 17 sections, of which USTA Southern is the largest. The 160,000+ USTA members living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee make up USTA Southern, and account for 26.8 percent of the total USTA membership. A professional staff housed in Peachtree Corners, Ga., carries out USTA Southern's daily operations, but policy is formed and much of the organization's work is executed via a board and committee structure of more than 200 volunteers. For more information about the types of programs and services offered by USTA Southern, visit [USTA.com/Southern](#).

With more than 100 tournaments throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$15,000 to upwards of \$160,000, the USTA Pro Circuit is the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world and the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring tennis players. Now in its 41st year, the USTA Pro Circuit has been a launching pad for many of today's top pros, including Andy Murray, Naomi Osaka, Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Sloane Stephens, Alexander Zverev, Daniil Medvedev, Victoria Azarenka, Garbine Muguruza, and Nick Kyrgios. Follow the USTA Pro Circuit at #USTAProCircuit on social media and at www.usta.com/procircuit.

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