



PRESS RELEASE

2017 NJTL NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Winners to Be Honored at the Yale Club in New York City

Contest Exclusive to Students 18 and Younger Who Participate in National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) Chapters Nationwide

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., Aug. 10, 2017 – USTA Foundation, the national charitable organization of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), today announced the 10 winners of the 19th annual NJTL National Essay Contest. The winners, ranging in ages from 10 to 18, were selected out of more than 2,600 entries submitted this summer.

Each winner will receive a New York City travel package from Aug. 25 to Aug. 27 as part of 2017 Arthur Ashe Kids' Day powered by Net Generation, the annual youth celebration that precedes the US Open.

This year's question asked: "In addition to tennis, education and life skills are extremely important to the development of our youth. Which one of the three components above is most important to you, and how will it help you throughout your life?" To enter the contest, students were asked to write an essay of 350 words or less.

Each winner will receive round-trip airfare to New York City for himself/herself along with a parent/legal guardian plus a two-night stay at the Grand Hyatt New York. In addition the winners will have VIP status in the President's Box during the 2017 Arthur Ashe Kids' Day. Arthur Ashe Kids' Day will be held Saturday, Aug. 26, at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, home of the US Open.

The weekend will wrap up with an awards luncheon on Sunday, Aug. 27, co-hosted by USTA Foundation Chairman of the Board James Blake and former New York City Mayor and Honorary Board Member David N. Dinkins. The luncheon will be held at the Yale Club, where the essay contest winners will receive an honorary plaque.

The 10 winners of the 2017 NJTL National Essay Contest were selected in the following categories:

Winners

Boys/Girls 10 and Under

Aditya Kaul Gupta, Brookline, Mass.
Maggie Shelburn, Indianapolis, Ind.

Boys/Girls 12 and Under

Dawson Pope, Collierville, Tenn.
Ducky Steward, Johns Island, S.C.

Boys/Girls 14 and Under

David Martin Jr., Manteca, Calif.
Kira McGrown, Wichita, Kan.

Boys/Girls 16 and Under

Jaylon Bokknight, Augusta, Ga.
Danielle Ellsworth, Perry, Mich.

Boys/Girls 18 and Under

Shraiy Gupta, Pennington, N.J.
Gail Cabahug, Albany, N.Y.

NJTL

Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center
NJTL of Indianapolis

Tennis Memphis
City of Charleston NJTL Courting Kids

San Joaquin Valley Tennis Academy
McAdams Community Tennis Foundation

MACH Academy
Todd Martin Youth Leadership

NJTL of Trenton
15 Love

“Once again, the USTA Foundation is proud to welcome this year’s well-deserved NJTL National Essay Contest winners to New York for their outstanding submissions,” said Dan Faber, Executive Director, USTA Foundation. “Each year, we receive so many well-written essays from kids, with so much thought and effort put into their words. I want to thank them for sharing their stories and outlook on how tennis and education has helped to positively shape their young lives. In addition, I’d like to congratulate the NJTL programs these students represent, and commend all the chapters nationwide for encouraging participation in the contest. For they deserve credit for the impact they have generated.”

In January 2014, the USTA Foundation combined with USTA NJTL, a national network of 350 community-based tennis and education programs annually serving more than 225,000 youth, to become a fully operational foundation. NJTL has impacted millions of kids throughout the country, making it the largest grass-roots tennis program in the United States.

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USTA Foundation Incorporated, the national charitable arm of the United States Tennis Association Incorporated (USTA), brings together the powerful combination of tennis and education to change lives of under-resourced youth. The Foundation utilizes financial grants, scholarship opportunities, curricula, technical assistance and training to make a lasting difference, and it’s with a primary focus is to develop and ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network. The NJTL network features more than 350 chapters that reach more than 225,000 youth on an annual basis. The Foundation raises money and public awareness to support these life-changing programs through private donations, corporate sponsorships and foundations, as well as its special fundraisers held throughout the year, including the US Open Opening Night Gala, the US Open Paver program, World Tennis Day and a series of Pro-Ams on both coasts, to name a few. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$25 million in grants and scholarships to more than 270 programs, helping to serve up dreams for thousands of children throughout the country. For more information on USTA Foundation, visit www.ustafoundation.com. Or stay connected through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/USTA/>, and on Twitter at @USTA.

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. A not-for-profit organization with more than 715,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, one of the highest-attended annual sporting events in the world, and launched the US Open Series, linking seven summer WTA and ATP World Tour tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns approximately 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA’s philanthropic entity, the USTA Foundation, provides grants and scholarships in addition to supporting tennis and education programs nationwide to benefit under-resourced youth through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network. For more information about the USTA, go to USTA.com or follow the official accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.

For more information, contact:

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