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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture

29<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **2017 FCCA Essay Contest**

The Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture is inviting all primary and secondary school students in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to participate in the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Foundation for the Caribbean 2017 Essay Contest.

Participating students are required to submit **one (1)** essay **500** words in length on the following topic:  
**“What will cruise ship passengers learn about my country? What will they remember most and hold with them?”**

Essays will be judged on the following criteria: **content/subject, creativity, style/structure and grammar.**

The national selection committee will choose two first place winners (one from each age category) to represent St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the regional leg of the competition.

The following cash scholarships will be awarded by the FCCA to the first, second and third place regional winners from the two age categories:

- **Junior Division (ages 12 years & under)** student may not have passed his/her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday by September 26, 2017.

	<b><u>Student</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
<b>1st Place</b>	<b>US \$3,000</b>	<b>US \$3,000</b>
<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>US \$1,500</b>	<b>US \$1,500</b>
<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>US \$1,000</b>	<b>US \$1,000</b>

- **Senior Division (ages 13 years to 16 years)** student may not have passed his/her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday by September 26, 2017.

	<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>
<b>1st Place</b>	<b>US \$3,000</b>	<b>US \$3,000</b>
<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>US \$1,500</b>	<b>US \$1,500</b>
<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>US \$1,000</b>	<b>US \$1,000</b>



In addition, the two **regional** first place winners (one from each age category) will be invited to accept their prizes at the FCCA Caribbean Cruise Conference in Merida, Mexico – October 23 – 27, 2017.

All travel expenses for each winner and one chaperone will be paid for by the FCCA. To reward students for their efforts, national finalists will receive US \$200.00.

Essays should be submitted to the Ministry (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, NIS Building, Kingstown) no later than **Friday, June 30th, 2017**. Please note that entries must be accompanied by an entry form that can be found at the Ministry.

If you have any questions regarding the contest, please contact the Communications Unit in the Ministry of Tourism at telephone number 457-1502 or e-mail [tourism@gov.vc](mailto:tourism@gov.vc)

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