National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
DAR HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST 2026–2027

(This information is for chapter and school use)

NEW THIS YEAR – ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY AS A PDF

TOPIC:	Select a figure from the era of the American Revolution (1773-1783). Discuss how he or she influenced the course of the American Revolution, who he or she was and the contribution that historic character made to the founding of a new nation. Your figure must have been an actual person – one who is well-known or an everyday man, woman, or child, who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.
PARTICIPANTS:	**All grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible.** An individual student may submit an entry directly to a DAR chapter, in their own state, if their class or school is not participating. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. **DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.**
LENGTH:	Length is to be from 800–1,200 words.
FORM:	Essay must be typed or prepared on a computer, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. In this case, a written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher's or physician's letter attesting to the student's special need. Please note that the entire essay must be the student's original work. This includes all research, writing and editing, which must be done by the student and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, AI, or other helper. Essays may only be submitted once to the contest. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: • Title of Essay: **"Name of your subject"** • A subtitle is permitted if written below the topic. • Contestant's full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) Note: If the school's regulations prohibit student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted. • Contestant's phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available • Name of contestant's school with grade level indicated • Name of sponsoring DAR chapter • Number of words in essay
RESOURCES:	Essay must include a bibliography listing all references utilized. Four or more resources are expected. The bibliography should be cited in a standard, recognized citation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA, etc.). Internet resources, if used, should be cited in the same style, including the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information. Students are encouraged to use primary sources and cite them. Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
JUDGING AND AWARDS:	**JUDGING: Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, neatness and that it is the student's own work. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics and other such additions will not be considered in judging and should not be included.** Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least two non-DAR judges. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members. **CHAPTER:** One essay is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition or to district/region first. Patriots of the American Revolution essay contest chapter winner certificate and medal may be presented by the chapter if desired. In addition, chapters may present certificates of participation to every student who participates in the essay contest. **STATE:** One essay is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the appropriate national division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a silver medal and state winner certificate. **DIVISION:** One essay is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the national vice chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate and a blue ribbon. **NATIONAL:** First, second and third place winners are selected at the national level. A certificate, gold pin and monetary award are presented to the national first place winner at Continental Congress. Winning essays (or videos) may appear in official DAR communications. The national second and third place winners receive a certificate and a monetary award. ***Note: All essays must be submitted to a local chapter electronically by a teacher, school or individual student. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the essay contest will not be considered.***
DEADLINE:	Chapter chairs should determine date for teachers, schools or individual students to forward essays to the chapter chair to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. *States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines.* DUE: November 13, 2026

NAME, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON Lisa Waldman
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NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER Cumberland County

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256