



HIGH SCHOOL ORATION CONTEST

CONTESTANT RULES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To be acknowledged by the contestant and guardian. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

I/We understand the following regarding the entered oration and contestant:

- The contestant must be a high school student in grades 9-12 or equivalent.
- The oration must be the original work of the participant.
- The oration must be between five and six minutes in length.
- The oration must be delivered from memory and without use of notes, props, or visual aids.
- The subject of the oration shall be an event or personality from 1775–1783, or a document from 1765–1783, pertaining to the Revolutionary War era.
- The oration must demonstrate how the chosen topic relates to America today.
- The oration should demonstrate research, analysis, and effective presentation.
- The oration will be judged based upon its composition, delivery, significance, historical accuracy, and relevance.
- The oration must make a clear reference to America's 250th anniversary.
- Participants may only enter the contest one time per competition year.

I/We understand the following regarding the recordings being submitted to the contest:

- The video recording must be completed in a single continuous shot without splices or other edits to the single take of the oration
- The recording must be landscape.
- There must be no indication of chapter, state, district, or region.
- The field of view must encompass the whole "stage", including the flags (if used) on either side and a full view of the orator (head to toe).
- Use of flags is highly encouraged – U.S. to the left as viewed in the video and SAR to the right. Do not use a state flag.
- Recording the oration in front of a live audience is also highly encouraged as this tends to allow for a more natural and dynamic presentation.
- Use of technology such as a wireless lapel mic to ensure the best possible audio quality is highly encouraged. USB kits for use with cell phones are not overly expensive and provide great production value.
- Use of a tripod is recommended.

Contestant Rules Acknowledgement

- Note that:
 - Videos determined to be noncompliant with the above requirements will be disqualified; however, they may be corrected and resubmitted prior to the contest submission deadline.
 - The recommendations provided are intended to improve the overall quality and clarity of the submission. While adherence to these recommendations is not mandatory, failure to address them may create challenges for judges during the evaluation process.
 - Judges are instructed to provide the fairest possible evaluation regardless of technical quality. Nevertheless, participants are strongly encouraged to ensure that their submissions meet the highest reasonable standards of presentation. In particular, clear and intelligible audio is often the most significant factor distinguishing higher-quality submissions.

I/We agree that:

- The interpretation of rules and decisions of the NSSAR and its judges shall govern the contest without reservation.
- Judges may deduct points for infractions to the published rules (i.e., duration is over/under time, prompting was required, and/or improper use of a prop). Decisions regarding infractions are not appealable.
- Judges' notes and collective contestant ranking are the property of the SAR and will not be provided to the contestants, and will be destroyed immediately after the contest.
- National Oration Contest Finals are held in person at the annual SAR Congress, and that virtual participation is not allowed.
- A contestant who is found to have entered the SAR High School Oration Contest in more than one chapter or state during the same contest year will be disqualified and will forfeit any awards received.
- If a contestant is selected as a National Finalist but is unable to compete in person at the National Oration Contest Finals, the National Oration Committee Chairman may, when feasible, replace that contestant with the next highest-ranked state submission from a contestant able to participate in the National competition.

I/We attest that the contestant is a High School Student in grade 9-12 or equivalent.

_____ (Contestant's Printed Name)	_____ (Contestant's Signature)	_____ (Date)
If contestant is under lawful age and majority, the signature of a lawful parent or guardian is required:		
_____ (Guardian's Printed Name)	_____ (Guardian's Signature)	_____ (Date)