

SAR High School Essay Contest Rules

AI generated submissions are not accepted, and checks are performed assessing this. This contest is about stimulating interest in learning about the founding of the nation and sharing the fruits of this personal intellectual investment with others as a learning activity enriching all.

Entries are submitted to the applicable SAR chapter within the applicant's state or country of residence and in accordance with their local rules. Applicants **DO NOT** submit their essays directly to the National Contest Chairman.

Contest entries must be submitted as **PDF files** attached to emails and sent to saessay1776@gmail.com by **SAR State Essay Contest Chairmen only**.

Each essay entry must be accompanied by a PDF copy of the completed [application form](#).

Each entry must be accompanied by a PDF copy of the completed [Release Form for Youth Programs](#).

The submission must have **four** parts submitted as separate PDF attachments:

1. Application form
2. Release Form for Youth Programs
3. Title page
4. Essay Text and Reference List

The title page, essay text, and reference list, sections **must start on separate pages**.

No reference to the applicant's name or personal information can be part of the essay text pages or reference list.

Please follow these rules. Essays that **do not** conform to the rules may be **disqualified**.

1)Title Page – The title page must include the following:

- Title of the Essay
- Applicant's name, grade, home address, email address & telephone number
- Applicant's high school name, address & telephone number
- Parent/legal guardian name, email & telephone number, **if contestant under age 18 on date of the original contest submission to their local SAR chapter**
- Statement on how the applicant learned about the contest (if from the Internet, including the URL of the website)

The title page is not numbered.

2)Essay Text Pages – The essay must comply with the following:

- Be a minimum of 800 and a maximum of 1,200 words. The word count applies only to the essay text section. Excludes title page, in text reference citations/footnotes, and the reference list

- First page of the essay text must start with the essay title
- Be typed in 12-point size in a standard academic/business font (Aptos, Arial, Times New Roman, etc.)
- Be double-spaced
- Use 8 ½" by 11" paper
- Essay pages are numbered sequentially, starting with "1"
- The total word count of the essay will be listed on the final essay page anywhere below the last sentence of the essay text
- No reference to the applicant's name or personal information can be part of the essay text
- No graphics, pictures, or special covers are allowed

3)Reference pages – The reference list must:

- Start on a new page
- Numbering will continue using the next page number after the last essay page (example, if the essay is 4 pages, the reference list starts on page 5)
- Citations in the essay and references utilized must be in accordance with the **MLA Manual of Style**
- All factual statements in the essay text need to be supported by appropriate reference citations
- It is expected that the citation used will have been reviewed for historical accuracy
- Minimum of 5 references must be cited, 3 of which must be published works. **Some** examples of published works are books; original letters/diaries; original documents (ex., The Declaration of Independence, etc.); public records; published papers or review articles in recognized journals/magazines/publications (ex., Journal of the American Revolution, etc.). These must be retrievable to review for historical accuracy.
- Published work citations must include the specific page/pages utilized as information sources. It is permissible to cite a reference once and list all the pages applicable to that source. Ex. pp. 13, 35, 102, 340.
- Encyclopedias or internet sources are acceptable, but not considered part of the three (3) published works
- URL links to references may be provided but must take the reader to the specific page containing the information used as a source cited in the text. Multiple URL listings may be needed if information cited comes from multiple pages within the same source.
- No reference to the applicant's name or personal information can be part of the reference list.
- The PDF copy submitted is one continuous document including the essay text and reference list, but excluding the title page

Essays which meet the criteria above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria:

- Theme
- Historical accuracy
- Clarity of thought
- Organization

- Grammar and spelling
- Documentation

Awards at the national level are as follows:

First place:

\$6,000; a medal and recognition certificate; eligible for up to \$1500 travel stipend for expenses incurred attending the SAR Annual Congress based upon submission of expense receipts.

Second Place:

\$3000 and a recognition certificate

Third Place:

\$2,000 and a recognition certificate

Fourth Place:

\$750 and a recognition certificate

Fifth Place:

\$500 and a recognition certificate

Awards at the chapter and state level may vary. Please contact the specific chapter or state chairmen for more information.

Provisions:

By entering this contest, all participants agree that if their essay is one of the national prize level winning essays, it will be the property of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

The winning essay of the SAR High School Essay National Contest may be submitted for publication in the national SAR Magazine. Applicants to this contest agree that their essays may be published in the national SAR Magazine and/or on other national SAR media, SAR State Society media, or SAR chapter media. Examples of media are magazines, newsletters, websites, and Facebook pages. Agreement to ownership and use is in the Release Form for Youth Programs.

The five winning essay participants, at all levels, may be required to supply a tax identification number to receive their award.

All participants further agree that the five national prize-winning essays may not be submitted to any other contest or used for any other purpose without the express permission of the national SAR High School Essay Contest Chairman.

Applicants in the SAR High School Essay Contest agree that the interpretation of the rules and decisions of the National Chairman and its judges must govern without reservation and that decisions of the judges and/or the National Chairman are final and not subject to review.