Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

SCORING (Total = 100 Points)*

COMPOSITION (Maximum 15 points)

What the Speaker Says – the orator demonstrates the ability to present a strong argument that persuades the audience to accept the thesis.

- *Organization* – the speaker clearly states the thesis early in the presentation; builds the case throughout; and in the conclusion summarizes how the thesis was proven.
- *Vocabulary, Syntax and Grammar* – a precise message with words chosen to convey the message and persuade the listener.
- *Logic* – Once thesis is established, all arguments and examples should support and prove the thesis.

DELIVERY (Maximum 40 points)

How Well the Speaker Communicates – the orator demonstrates strong communications skills.

- *Voice* – Speaker should be clearly heard, and words enunciated properly. Pace and cadence should be varied, and a smooth and persuasive style is demonstrated.
- *Body Movement and Gestures* – Natural appearing gestures and body movement are used to provide emphasis of thesis points. Pacing back and forth, often distracting, is avoided.
- *Appearance* – Speaker appears neat and well-groomed. Clothing chosen helps to persuade, rather than distract, from the presentation.

SIGNIFICANCE (Maximum 15 points)

Chosen topic has relevance today – The topic (person, event, or document) chosen for the thesis has relevance today and the connection is made clear in the arguments presented.

HISTORY (Maximum 30 points)

Topic is grounded in the Revolutionary War Period –

- Speech is grounded on the actual Revolutionary War period or on the founding of our country.
- Speaker is rewarded more if original research is demonstrated or a new analysis of old facts with a new theory or interpretation is provided.

* Penalty points will be incurred if the presentation is less than five minutes or longer than six minutes.

The Sons of The American Revolution

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in 1889 by a group of men who, after the 1876 Centennial, thought it would be appropriate to document and record the stories of their Revolutionary War ancestors and the events in which they were involved. Those efforts led to the establishment of an organization dedicated to fostering Patriotism, perpetuating our American Heritage, and retaining and expanding historical records of the American Revolution.

As the largest male genealogical society in the country, there are tens of thousands of active members in over 550 chapters across the country. The Georgia Society has thirty-five chapters.

At the national, state, and local levels, the SAR helps to bring its goals to life in the communities where we live by supporting active military service members and veterans, and by providing a variety of age-appropriate educational programs and contests to the schools in our communities.

Visit our local chapter website:
www.PiedmontChapter.org

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

Piedmont Chapter
Georgia Society
National Society
Sons of the American Revolution

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

For questions or more information, contact:
Stacey McCarver, Education Committee Chair
dawgpop@gmail.com

The Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

The contest is open to all students who are in the 9th through 12th grades in public, private, parochial schools or to home-school students in the same grade range.

The preliminary rounds of the contest begin at the local SAR chapter level; students can advance to the state or national levels. Scholarships or cash prizes are awarded at all levels.

The student's contest entry will be delivered live at the local chapter level and will be video recorded. This recording will be used to submit the chapter winner's entry to the state and the state's winner to the national competition.

At the national judging level, a slate of six semi-finalists will be selected. The semi-finalists will present their oration entries at the SAR National Congress in mid-July following the completion of the contest school year. The national winner will be named at the SAR National Congress.

Expenses for each semi-finalist and a chaperone will be paid by the SAR state society sponsoring the student.

The Contest

- Participants must write an original oration of not less than five minutes or more than six minutes.
- The oration must be delivered from memory without the use of notes or any kind of props.
- The subject of the oration shall deal with an event, a person, or a document pertaining to the Revolutionary War or the founding of our country. **There must be a mention of our nation's 250th anniversary celebration**.
- *It is essential that the oration show how the chosen subject relates to the United States today*.
- Evidence of historical research and creative presentation are important.
- The oration will be judged based on its composition, delivery, significance, historical accuracy, and relevance to our 250th anniversary.

A student's ***intent*** to participate in the contest must be e-mailed to the local chapter contest chair (Stacey McCarver; dawgpop@gmail.com) no later than **midnight on Sunday, January 31, 2027.**

The notification of intent must include:

- Student's full name
- School name
- Home mailing address
- E-mail address
- Phone number
- Title of Oratory Presentation

*Please Note: This is a notification of intent to participate only. The oration content itself does not have to be completed until **February 28, 2027**.*

This early intent notification is to allow the local chapter time to set up the location and time for judging. Every attempt will be made to hold the judging at the student's school if facilities are available. Otherwise, a public location central to the schools of the participants will be found to hold the contest.

The local chapter contest will be held no earlier than Monday, March 6, 2027, and no later than the end of March.

In addition to the reward of learning more about the history of the Revolutionary War period of our country, honing the skills of doing historical research and presenting those findings, financial rewards are also provided at the Local Chapter, State, and National Level of competition.

Chapter Winners:
1st Place - $175[1] **2nd Place - $100**

[1] Judging is done by individual applicant not by school. Entries from all participating schools will be pooled together to determine 1st and 2nd place winners. A contestant from the Piedmont Chapter that finishes 1st in the State SAR competition will receive an additional $100 from the Piedmont Chapter.

Georgia State Society Winners:
1st Place - $500[2] **2nd Place - $200**

[2] The Georgia State SAR winner qualifies for the National SAR Joseph S. Rumbaugh competition.

National SAR Winners:[3]
1st Place - $8,000; a medal and recognition certificate
2nd Place - $5,000; a medal and recognition certificate
3rd Place - $3,000; a medal and recognition certificate

[3] The national competition winner will present their oration entry at the Youth Awards Banquet during the SAR National Congress. Fourth through sixth place finishers are awarded $400 and all other national contestants are awarded $200.

Please Note: the exact amounts shown above are subject to change but will be in the same order of magnitude of the value shown.

For more information about the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, visit the National SAR website at: www.sar.org/joseph-s-rumbaugh-historical-oration-contest/