SAR High School Essay Contest

SCORING (Maximum = 300 Points)

The Required Elements (Maximum 25 points)

- The essay must have a cover sheet (Title Page) with the name, address, school, and telephone number of the entrant and other required elements. (5 points)
- The topic of the essay must deal with an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution (5 points)
- The essay must be typed and double-spaced using 12-point Time New Roman font (5 points)
- All citations must be listed on the last page using the MLA Style Manual (Reference List) (5 points)
- No plagiarism found in document (5 points)
- Are there any spelling errors? (2-point deduction for each word misspelled)

The Required Segments (Maximum 100 points)

- The opening paragraph contains a clear thesis statement (or controlling idea of the essay) (34 points)
- The body paragraphs, usually three, each contain one developed aspect of the subject (33 points)
- The final paragraph, the conclusion, where the paper is ended brings the reader back to the main idea (thesis statement) (33 points)

Additional Points (Maximum 175 points)

- Is the thesis statement clear to the reader? (30 points)
- Does the thesis statement limit and focus the essay? (30 points)
- Does everything in the essay relate to the thesis? (25 points)
- Are all the main points adequately supported with quotes and references; are they fully developed? (50 points)
- Do transitions connect the paragraphs of the essay? (20 points)
- Is the essay easy to read? (20 points)

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.

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, 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

SAR High School Essay 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

SAR High School Essay Contest Rules

To participate, students must submit an original 800- to 1,200-word essay based on **an event, person, philosophy, or ideal** associated with the **American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution**.

Contest entries must be submitted as a PDF file attached to an e-mail to the local chapter contest chair (Stacey McCarver; dawgpop@gmail.com) no later than **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**.

The essay must have four parts: (1) Title Page, (2) Essay Body Pages, (3) Reference List; works cited using **MLA Reference Style**, and (4) Applicant's biography.

The title page, reference list and applicant's biography must be listed on separate pages and no reference to the applicant's name or information can be part of the essay pages or bibliography.

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

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

- Title of the Essay
- Applicant's name, grade, address, phone number, and e-mail address
- Name, e-mail address, and phone number of Applicant's Parent or Guardian.
- Applicant's high school name, address, and phone number
- Statement on how applicant learned about the contest (if from the internet, include the URL of the website)

(2) Essay Body Pages – The essay must:

- Contain a minimum of 800 and a maximum of 1,200 words (excluding the title page, footnotes, reference list, and biography)
- First page of essay body must include the Title
- No applicant information is on the essay pages
- 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced
- Use 8-1/2" x 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides
- Essay body pages are numbered sequentially, starting with "1"
- No graphics, special covers, or bindings are allowed

(3) Reference List Pages – The Reference List must:

- Contain citations in the essay and citations in the Reference List that are in accordance with the MLA Manual of Style. No other style systems should be used.
- No applicant information is on the Reference List
- Minimum of 5 references, 3 of which must be published works (encyclopedias or internet sources are acceptable but not considered part of the 3 published works)

(4) Biography page – The Biography must:

- Be limited to one page
- Include academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, and plans for college

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

- Historical accuracy
- Clarity of thought
- Organization and proven topic
- Grammar and spelling
- Documentation

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

School Winners:

1st Place - $300[1] **2nd Place - $150**

[1] If multiple schools participate through the local chapter, a Chapter winner will be chosen from the winners of each school. If there are fewer than 10 participants from a school, those participants will be pooled with those from other schools to determine a place winner. A contestant from the Piedmont Chapter that finishes 1st in the State SAR competition will receive an additional $100.

Georgia State Winners:

1st Place - $500[2] **2nd Place - $400**

[2] The Georgia State SAR winner qualifies for the National SAR High School Essay competition.

National SAR Winners:

1st Place - $6,000; a medal and recognition certificate; $1,500 travel stipend for the winner and chaperone at the annual SAR Congress.
2nd Place - $3,000 and a recognition certificate
3rd Place – $2,000 and a recognition certificate
4th Place – $750 and a recognition certificate
5th Place - $500 and a recognition certificate

All essay submissions must be accompanied by:

- The SAR Release Form for Youth Contests (signed by Applicant's Parent or Guardian.
- The SAR High School Essay Contest Application Form (signed by Applicant and Parent or Guardian).

To access these forms or for full information about the contest go to:
SAR.org; Education; SAR High School Essay Contest