

# American History

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Join us in sparkling for American History! The purpose of the American History Committee is to promote American history throughout the year by honoring significant historical people, places, dates, and events. It does this in several ways.

- The committee sponsors the American History Essay Contest and Patriots of the American Revolution DAR High School Essay Contest. In many instances, the essay contest provides an additional opportunity for teachers to reach out beyond the existing curriculum to allow students to sparkle!
- The committee encourages chapters to recognize women in American History.
- The Excellence in American History DAR Award may be given by Chapters to recognize students (separate from the above school essays and for those in any grade) for outstanding work in American History.
- The Stars and Stripes bi-monthly newsletter celebrates American History as it relates to our DAR motto of God, Home, and Country. Chapters are encouraged to submit events or projects where their chapter and/or members sparkle in promoting American History.

### **American History Essay Contest**

Chapters are encouraged to promote and conduct the American History essay contest. All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, and those who are homeschooled are eligible.

### **Patriots of the American Revolution DAR High School Essay Contest**

Chapters are encouraged to promote the high school essay contest focused on figures of the American Revolution, in preparation for the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. The contest is open to students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in public, private, or parochial schools, and homeschooled.

### **Women in American History**

Wonderful Women have contributed to American History, past and present. Chapters are encouraged to honor such a notable woman from their community or State. Chapters may use the occasion of "Women's History Month" in March to spotlight the outstanding contributions of the woman of their choosing.

### **Excellence in American History DAR Award**

Chapters may choose to recognize a student of American History (separate from participation in one of the two above-mentioned essay contests) for those in any grade for outstanding work in American History.

### ***Stars & Stripes* newsletter**



Let's sparkle and twinkle for the Red, White, and Blue! Chapters can **Celebrate Stars & Stripes Forever** by sharing items of interest as it relates to American History. We can learn from each other and spotlight chapters and members in their work in American History! Photos are encouraged!

There is now a Facebook group NSDAR American History Committee and soon to be other social media platforms. Check them out for more great ways to celebrate our service to America and share your wonderful stories.

# American History Essay Contest

Chapters are encouraged to promote and conduct the American History essay contest. All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, and those who are homeschooled are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin.

**2022-2023 Essay Title: “Delegate to Second Continental Congress: How will the essential actions of a good citizen (dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism) help meet the challenges that America faces in this decade?”**

Reference: The Second Continental Congress met from May 10, 1775 - March 1, 1781, and included delegates from all thirteen colonies. This Congress was instrumental in shaping what was to become the United States of America. Imagine that you are a delegate during 1775-1776. Which colony are you from and what will be important for you to accomplish for your colony?

Chapters are encouraged to contact their schools as early as possible about participating, so that the contest can be integrated into the curriculum. The enthusiastic participation of a key teacher or administrator is essential. One essay at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the State American History Chair for state competition.

## Deadlines

**Please have all essays returned to me by January 10, 2023.**

**Randi J Gray, 905 Naish Ave., Williamstown, WV 26187 or email me at [dar\\_randi@aol.com](mailto:dar_randi@aol.com)**

## Awards and Recognition

- Chapters may award a Bronze Medal to the chapter winners in each grade, plus a Chapter Winner Certificate. Chapters may also elect to award all participants a Certificate of Participation, available at the [DAR Store](#).
- States award a Silver Medal to the state winner in each grade, plus a State Winner Certificate, and other state-approved awards.
- Division Winners (one in each grade level) receive a Division Winner Certificate and a book.
- National Winners (one in each grade level) receive a National Winner Certificate, gold pin, and monetary award presented at Continental Congress. Winning essays may appear in official DAR communications. National second and third place winners (one in each grade level), will receive a certificate and a monetary award.

## Patriots in American History Essay Contest

Chapters are encouraged to promote and conduct the Patriots of the American History Essay Contest. All grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, and those who are home schooled are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or nation.

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 his/her contribution to the founding of a new nation. Figures may be any person, whether a well-known figure or an everyday man, woman, or child who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.

Students are encouraged to use primary sources (i.e., immediate, first-hand accounts such as letters, diaries, speeches, or newspaper reports) for their research. Lesser well-know figures are acceptable, but subjects must have been actual participants, i.e. not fictionalized.

One chapter winning essay is submitted to state chairs of American History; state winners are forwarded to the division vice chairs for judging; division winners are forwarded to the National Vice Chair for the Patriots of the American Revolution Essay. First, second, and third place winners are selected.

### **Deadlines**

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## Women in American History

The emphasis of Women in American History is on the role of women, past and present, in American History. Chapters are encouraged to select a notable woman from their state or community to honor. March is officially “Women’s History Month,” so chapters may wish to use this occasion to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the woman of their choice.

Chapters are encouraged to choose a woman to honor for this recognition by taking into consideration women who have made a contribution or a difference in their communities. She could be a historical entity or currently alive and worthy of recognition. Look for women who are, or have been, intellectual, educational, social, religious, political, scientific, or cultural innovators. The woman or women being honored may be DAR members, prospective DAR members, or non-members. You may select more than one woman to honor.

Please check out the Committee page for a list of past honorees and their biographies. Did you know WV has honored 45 Women in History between 2004 and 2023? Do you know of any other Women in American History we can honor?