

Dear Chapter Regents and Good Citizens Committee Chair

I am so pleased to serve as the State Chair for the DAR Good Citizens Essay Contest under the Isner-Johnson Administration.

The Good Citizens Essay Contest is my favorite writing opportunity. The student has a limited time to compose an essay with their feelings and thoughts as they come to mind. It does not require previous research.

My chapter, James Wood, was honored with the National winner a few years ago. We are very proud of him as he is now pursuing a PhD at John Hopkins.

I think the topic for this year's essay is very appropriate as we celebrate America 250. The title is: Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It. PROMPT; "Our nation will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2026. Describe how the characteristics of a good citizen help to renew and strengthen the democracy achieved by the Patriots of the American Revolution."

I am attaching the forms from the National website. I am setting a deadline for chapters to submit their winning essay to me by **November 1, 2025. I have to have the essays judged at the state level by Dec. 15, 2025.**

I will be in contact with you as we progress and provide more information.

Please feel free to contact me at janerichards@suddenlink.net

Cell 304-615-9142 Home 681-229-0822

Respectfully,

Jane Kesterson Richards



National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General

DAR GOOD CITIZENS COMMITTEE — Kimberly Daniels, National Chair
3810 Freestone Point, Castle Rock, CO 80108-7008 ★ (720) 218-8618 ★ DARGoodCitizens@nsdar.org
Jen Tousey, National Vice Chair ★ (310) 422-9337 ★ dargoodecitizenncv@nsdar.org

DAR GOOD CITIZENS PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The DAR Good Citizens program and scholarship contest are intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. The program is open to all senior class students enrolled in accredited public or private secondary schools in good standing with their state boards of education or a recognized accrediting organization such that a General Educational Development (GED) test is not required to receive a high school diploma. United States citizenship is not required. The student selected as the school's DAR Good Citizen must have the qualities of:

Dependability
Service
Leadership
Patriotism

truthfulness, loyalty, punctuality, and being worthy of trust
cooperation, courtesy, and contributing to the welfare of others
personality, self-control, ability to assume responsibility, ability to inspire others, and a decision-maker
devotion to and support of one's country, supporting service members and veterans, working for causes that make one's community stronger, and appreciating the cultural and historical importance of America's unique population

Each school may use a method of its own choice. **Only one student per year may be honored as a school's DAR Good Citizen.** Each school's DAR Good Citizen receives a DAR Good Citizens pin and certificate. This student is eligible, if they wish, to enter the DAR Good Citizens scholarship contest. (If not included, the contest forms and instructions may be obtained from the contact person listed below.) The DAR Good Citizens scholarship contest consists of three parts.

Part I & II consist of a student's personal information and a description of their qualities. These parts may be completed at home.

Part III is a timed essay to be administered under the supervision of a faculty or DAR member. It must be completed at one sitting, within a two-hour time limit, and without assistance, using only a dictionary. Each contest entry is evaluated by independent, non-DAR judges. The winning entry is advanced through state, division, and national levels of judging.

DAR Good Citizens who enter the scholarship contest are eligible for the awards beyond the chapter level. Each state winner receives an award in the amount of at least \$500 and a special state DAR Good Citizens pin and certificate. Each of the eight division (multi-state groups) winners will receive a cash award in the amount of \$1,000. A national winner will be invited to Washington, DC to attend Continental Congress and will be awarded \$10,000 scholarships, an inscribed silver bowl and a certificate.

DAR CONTACT

- The opportunity to participate in the DAR Good Citizens program and scholarship contest is extended and sponsored by _____ Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

- For further information, please contact the DAR Chapter Good Citizens Committee Chair _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

or the DAR Chapter Regent _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Completed DAR Good Citizen entry due to the local DAR chapter by _____

Submit ALL DAR Good Citizens award/scholarship contest entry papers ONLY to the DAR chapter Good Citizens Committee Chair. Please retain copies of all pages of the entry before submitting to the local DAR chapter contact person.



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SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

School or DAR Volunteer Proctor:

1. Please review the following essay instructions with the student before the essay is written.
2. Determine in advance if accommodations are required for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

PART II: ESSAY

Clarity of expression, originality and historical accuracy will be considered in the judging. When completed, this essay should be attached along with the materials requested in Part I and submitted by the deadline to the DAR chapter chair. No other changes may be made to the essay after the allotted two-hour time limit. Guidelines for writing the essay are:

1. The essay must be written in the presence of a faculty or DAR member within a two-hour time limit or within IEP accommodations.
2. Please place the title of the essay and the focus question at the top of the first page.
3. The student's name and a page number must be placed in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the essay.
4. The essay is to be no longer than **550 words** (title excluded). The word count must be located at the end of the essay.
5. The essay text may be handwritten in ink or computer generated on one side of white paper, approximately 8-1/2" x 11" inches.
6. Reference materials other than a dictionary must not be used.
7. The essay may not be edited or corrected by anyone other than the student, and then only within the allotted time limit.

If the student has an IEP, whatever accommodations are normally afforded the student should be extended for the essay contest. Any questions should be directed to the national chair prior to the essay writing session.

ESSAY TITLE: Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It

PROMPT:

“Our nation will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2026. Describe how the characteristics of a good citizen help to renew and strengthen the democracy achieved by the Patriots of the American Revolution.”

Send a complete set of original DAR Good Citizens award/scholarship contest entry papers **ONLY** to the DAR chapter Good Citizens Committee Chair. Please make copies of all pages of the entry for your records before it is directed to the local DAR chapter contact person.

DAR CONTACT

Sponsoring chapter _____ Deadline _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____



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DAR GOOD CITIZENS CALENDAR AND DEADLINES

State Chairs, National Division Vice Chairs and National Vice Chairs:
Please check your packets sent by the National Vice Chair for additional information.

August

- National Vice Chairs send packets to National Division Vice Chairs.
- National Division Vice Chairs contact all of their State Chairs.
- State Chair, working with State Regent, sets state deadline to receive chapter Scholarship Contest winner entries.
- State Chair contacts all of her Chapter Chairs.

Late Summer / Early Fall

- Chapter Chairs begin contacting and giving information to the schools.
- Chapter Chairs order their DAR Good Citizens materials from the DAR Store.
- State Chairs order DAR Good Citizens materials for their state from the DAR Store.
- Chapter Chairs process the scholarship contest entries using non-DAR judges to select winner, and send the chapter contest winner's packet to the State Chair by the deadline set by her State Chair.

February 1

- Chapter Chair completes DAR Good Citizens section of the Chapter Master Report (CMR) **before February 1** deadline, using PIN access code supplied by Chapter Regent.

February 25

- State Chair processes the chapter scholarship contest entries and mails the state scholarship contest winner's original packet to her National Division Vice Chair to be received by **February 25**.
- State Chairs prepare their reports to send to their National Division Vice Chair (includes CMR information and the State Chairs' Report form. State Chairs download their state's CMR results from the Chapter Master Report on the e-Membership Update Menu. Chairs will receive a PIN access code by email to enable them to download this report. The State Chair Report is available under the forms tab on the DAR Good Citizens Committee webpage.
- State winning entry due to National Division Vice Chair.

March 15

- National Division Vice Chairs process the state scholarship contest entries and send the National Vice Chair their division scholarship contest winner's original packet, which is to be received by **March 15**.
- National Division Vice Chairs send the National Chair their division reports (including the National Vice Chair Report sent to them by the National Chair in August) by the reporting date of **March 15**.
- Division winning entry packet to be received by the National Vice Chair.

April 15

- National Vice Chair's report **DUE** to the National Chair.

DEADLINES — Scholarship Contest:

- States and chapters set their deadlines for receipt of essay materials to allow judging and processing to the next level.
 - ❖ Suggested deadlines are: **November 1** for chapters and **December 15** for states.



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DAR GOOD CITIZENS COMMITTEE SCHOOL COVER LETTER

Dear _____,
(School name or administrator's name)

_____ Chapter is pleased to sponsor the DAR Good Citizens program in our area. We hope that your high school will participate in this program, which honors an outstanding young person in the senior class who demonstrates qualities of a good citizen, as well as provides an optional opportunity for this student to participate in the scholarship portion of the program.

Please take time to review the enclosed information. If you should have any questions about the DAR Good Citizens program, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Enclosed are the following:

1. **Program Overview** (DGC-1000)
2. **Student Information Sheet** (*Complete and returned to the chapter.*) (DGC-1001)
3. **Scholarship Contest Instructions** (DGC-1002)
4. **Scholarship Essay Instructions** (Sealed envelope with DGC-1003)

Please return all requested material by _____ to _____
(Date / Time) (Chapter Chair or contact)

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

(C-3)



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Jen Tousey, National Vice Chair ★ (310) 422-9337 ★ dargoodcitizenncv@nsdar.org

DAR GOOD CITIZENS COMMITTEE COMMITTEE CHAIR INSTRUCTIONS

The growth and success of this committee depend upon chapter chairs who establish and maintain contact with high schools in their communities and state chairs who coordinate the scholarship contest within their states. Your service is part of our legacy ... and there is a pin for that!

INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES:

1. The scholarship essay title and focus question are on the form, "Scholarship Essay Instructions" (DGC-1003). Place the form in a sealed envelope. Label the envelope "DAR Good Citizens Scholarship Contest -- Essay Topic Enclosed. DO NOT OPEN UNTIL STUDENT IS READY TO WRITE ESSAY."
2. Reporting and scholarship essay contest dates:
 - FIRM Deadlines:** Scholarship Essay Contest
 - Before or by February 25** – state winning entry DUE to national division vice chair
 - Before or by March 15** – division winning entry DUE to national vice chair
 - Deadlines:** reports to national division vice chair and national chair
 - February 25** – state chair's report DUE to national division vice chair
 - March 15** – division reports DUE to national vice chair
3. All forms distributed to schools should include your contact information. Fill in the complete information on each form.
4. Chapters near the state border may cross state lines, with the written permission of both state regents, to sponsor the DAR Good Citizen Contest in a school. The student's address should not be a consideration in judging the essay contest.
5. A school may select only one DAR Good Citizen per year. The chosen students are invited to participate in the optional scholarship essay contest.
6. Carefully review the current NIP forms for chapter chairs and school assignments. Links to committee forms and information, including a calendar, are on the national committee webpage at: <https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/dar-good-citizens/dar-good-citizens-program-overview>. Since the essay focus question changes yearly, check that you are using the current year's materials.
7. Determine your state deadline for the scholarship contest and set your chapter deadline to be early enough to conduct chapter judging and to organize your materials to mail to the next level of state judging. (Suggested deadlines are **November 1 for chapters** and **December 15 for states**.)
8. Order DAR Good Citizen certificates, pins, and stickers from the DAR Store. Posters may now be downloaded. Chapters should order these directly from NSDAR.
9. All DAR Good Citizens chosen by their schools receive certificates, pins, and stickers from the local chapter whether or not they participate in the scholarship contest.
10. Check for new eligible schools in your area. Schools appreciate receiving information as early as possible!
11. Prepare the school cover letter. Fill in complete contact information as indicated on all forms distributed to schools. Forms on the national committee webpage are writable and savable.
12. Five pages are distributed to the schools:
 - *School Cover Letter*
 - *Program and Scholarship Overview* (DGC-1000)
 - *Student Information* (DGC-1001)
 - *Scholarship Contest Instructions* (DGC-1002)
 - *Sealed envelope with Scholarship Essay Instructions* (*insert last)

(C-1)

13. Determine the appropriate school contact. Personally deliver or mail all of the materials to the school. Review the material with the school contact and answer his/her questions. Be sure the schools know your chapter deadline and that the *Student Information Sheet* (DGC-1001) is to be completed for each DAR Good Citizen, including those not participating in the scholarship contest.
14. Remind the school contact of your chapter deadline a month before the deadline and again a few days before the deadline. Be sure they know your address to which to mail the essay materials. You may arrange to pick the materials up from the school if you prefer.
15. If a student has a disability that would affect his performance in the essay contest, whatever accommodations are normally afforded the disabled student should be extended for the essay contest. Any questions should be directed to the national chair.
16. Students who submit all required materials for the scholarship contest should not be disqualified for trivial reasons, *i.e.*, a student omitting the word count, a page number, or misspelled words.
17. A minimum of two, and preferably three, non-DAR judges are required. Review the Judge's Evaluation Form with your judges and answer their questions. Set a firm deadline for judging to be completed. Chapters with only one scholarship contest entrant do not judge that essay; send student contest materials for your one entrant to the next level for judging.
18. Before you send the materials to the judges, make sure each student has written the essay on this year's prompt.
19. Provide the judges with a folder for each student's materials, organized as below for state judging. Keep the originals during local judging. If the judge is agreeable, you may scan and email this material to the judge rather than copying and mailing it.
20. **State Scholarship Contest:** Make a complete copy to keep in your chapter files of the chapter scholarship contest winner's materials. Place the original materials, in the following order, into a folder to send to the state:
 - a. **Student Cover Sheet**
 - b. **Student Biography, including:**
 - i. Student's responses to a, b, c, d, and e on form DGC-1002
 - ii. Two letters of recommendation
 - c. **Essay**
 - d. **A completed Judge's Evaluation Form**
21. Mail your completed scholarship contest folder to your state chair, or state district chair, if applicable, before the deadline. Check with your state chair on where to send and the deadlines.
22. Recognize, Reward, and Publicize! Present the Good Citizens award to the school winner as soon as possible so that he/she can be recognized as such all year. Many chapters honor their DAR Good Citizens at a chapter meeting, tea, or luncheon, and invite parents and school advisors. In addition, you may also present the award at a school honors program. Contact local media so your community knows how your chapter supports patriotism and education!
23. National scholarships and awards are funded by income generated from the Gertrude O. Richards Endowment Fund and the Patricia Houck Holvick DAR Good Citizens Endowment Fund.
24. Chapter Master Report: Please provide your chapter regent with accurate information about your chapter's participation in the DAR Good Citizens program from January 1 – December 31.
25. Contact your district chair or state chair with any questions.

Additional Resources Available Online:

- Please visit the DAR Good Citizens Committee Webpage: <http://members.dar.org/committees/goodcitizens/index.htm>
- School Cover Letter (DGC-1005): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1005.pdf>
- Committee Chair's Instructions (DGC-1004): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1004.pdf>
- Judge's Evaluation Form (DGC-1006): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1006.pdf>
- Program Overview (DGC-1000): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1000.pdf>
- Scholarship Contest Instructions (DGC-1002): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1002.pdf>
- Scholarship Essay Instructions (DGC-1003): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1003.pdf>
- Student Information Sheet (DGC-1001): <https://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1001.pdf>
- DAR Good Citizens Calendar and Deadlines (DGC-1008): <https://www.dar.org/system/files/members/darnet/forms/DGC-1008.pdf>



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DAR GOOD CITIZENS COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

Please Note: Original copies of the school winner's entry are to be submitted to the chapter. To provide good quality copies to the judges, both parts (Parts I and II) must be submitted on white paper approximately 8-1/2" x 11" in size. Use only one side of the paper with numbered pages. Do not submit a personal photograph. This scholarship is judged and awarded without regard to gender, race, color, religion, national origin or disability. A resume may be included; however, the following items should still be listed separately in outline format.

PART I: PERSONAL & PART II: DAR GOOD CITIZENS QUALITIES (70 points possible)

1. **Complete the following in outline format.** (These may be completed at home and typed. A resume may be included; however, the following items should still be listed separately in outline format.)
 - a. List your high school activities, including offices held; awards received; athletic, music, journalism, drama, science and other participation; and areas of special interest.
 - b. Describe briefly how your efforts to serve your community (home, school, place of worship, etc.) have been effective or have made a difference.
 - c. Express your future plans, education, career goals, and aspirations in life.
 - d. List extracurricular activities, scouting, 4-H, explorers, after-school or summer jobs, hobbies, etc.
 - e. Describe briefly why you feel the four qualities of a DAR Good Citizens: dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism are important and how you have tried to exhibit those qualities in your life.
2. **Include two letters of recommendation** from close adult associates (other than family) such as a minister, an employer, a scout or 4-H leader, a teacher, a coach, a music instructor, a guidance counselor, etc. Have the two letters of recommendation returned to you to be submitted with your completed scholarship application. The letters of recommendation should include:
 - a. Identification of the writer along with a home or business address.
 - b. Relationship with the student and length of time he or she has known the student.
 - c. The qualities which make the student an appropriate candidate for consideration.

PART III: ESSAY (30 points possible)

The title/subject of the essay will be announced at the actual time of writing. Clarity of expression, originality, and historical accuracy will be considered in the judging. When completed, this essay should be attached to the materials requested in Part I. This must be submitted by the deadline to the DAR chapter chair. No other changes may be made to the essay after the allotted two-hour time limit. Guidelines for writing the essay are:

1. The essay must be written in the presence of a faculty or DAR member within a two-hour time limit.
2. Please place the title of the essay and the focus question at the top of the first page.
3. The student's name and page number must be placed in the upper right-hand corner of their essay.
4. The essay is to be no longer than 550 words. The word count must be located at the end of the essay. The count does not include the title or name.
5. The essay text may be handwritten in ink or computer-generated on one side of white paper, approximately 8-1/2" x 11" inches.
6. Reference materials other than a dictionary must not be used.
7. The essay may not be edited or corrected by anyone other than the student, only within the allotted time limit.

If the student experiences disability whatever accommodations are normally afforded the disabled student should be extended for the essay contest. Any questions about IEP accommodations should be directed to the national chair.

The chapter chair should furnish a sealed envelope, containing the title of the essay and essay instructions. If the school is not received this envelope, please contact the chapter chair contact below.

Submit ALL DAR Good Citizens award/scholarship contest entry papers ONLY to the DAR Good Citizens Committee Chair listed below. Please retain copies of all pages of the entry before submitting it to the local DAR chapter contact person.

DAR CONTACT	
Sponsoring chapter _____	Deadline _____
Contact person _____	Phone _____
Address _____	Email _____



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STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

This cover sheet must be forwarded to the local sponsoring DAR chapter for your school's DAR Good Citizen winner.

Please TYPE or PRINT all information and be sure to complete all blanks.

RETURN FORM AND COMPLETED MATERIALS TO:

Sponsoring DAR chapter/chapter code _____ Deadline _____
Contact person _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail _____

STUDENT INFORMATION:

First / Middle / Last Name _____
Address _____
E-mail _____ Phone _____
Parents or guardians (First / Middle / Last Name) _____
Parent e-mail _____ Parent phone _____
Signature of student _____
Signature of parent/guardian _____

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

School Name _____
Faculty e-mail _____
Address _____
School or faculty contact _____ Phone _____
Are you competing in the scholarship contest? YES NO

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

I, _____, have known _____ in
(Print your name) *(Print student's name)*

Grade _____ for _____ in my capacity as _____
(Length of time) *(Relationship to student)*

and that to my personal knowledge the student has demonstrated the qualities of a Good Citizen as set forth in your criteria and, in my opinion, is most deserving of recognition by your organization. If our DAR Good Citizen competed in the scholarship portion of the contest, I have reviewed the information the student is submitting to you and have found it to be accurate and entirely consistent with our records.

Signature _____
Title _____
E-mail Address _____
Address _____
Phone _____



National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE FORM

I, *(please print full name neatly)* _____,
hereby grant permission to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), including any of its chapters or state societies, to publish photos/images/videos including the name of my child in press releases and/or other materials either in print or electronic format for purposes deemed appropriate by the NSDAR.

I am signing this release form with the knowledge that any photos/images/videos posted electronically and in press releases can be downloaded and reprinted by news organizations, individuals and others including print, electronic, and broadcast media, and I, therefore, release the NSDAR from any liability arising from use of my child's photos/images/videos in web postings.

I further understand that if I wish to rescind this agreement, I may do so at any time by sending a letter to NSDAR. I further understand that already published photos/images/videos cannot be recalled. The requested rescission will take effect upon receipt of the notification.

Name of minor child: _____
(PRINT NAME)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NSDAR CONTACT INFORMATION

(This completed form should be kept on file by the collecting chapter or state society.)

Name of Contact: _____

Phone No. () _____ E-mail _____



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JUDGE'S INSTRUCTIONS AND EVALUATION FORM

Chapter Level District Level State Level Divisional Level National Level

Student Legal Name _____

School Name _____

Sponsoring Chapter Name _____ State _____

Judges: Please do not write on any part of the student's entry. Comments may be written on the back of this sheet as necessary. Return completed and signed evaluation form and comments to the sponsoring chapter.

PART I – PERSONAL (10 possible points):

(Areas of consideration – school activities, church activities, community volunteerism, extra-curricular activities)

PART I: _____ Points

PART II – GOOD CITIZENS QUALITIES (60 points possible):

Dependability (15 points) _____ Points

Service (15 points) _____ Points

Leadership (15 points) _____ Points

Patriotism (15 points) _____ Points

PART II: _____ 0 Points

PART III – ESSAY (30 possible points):

This is not an academic contest. No reference materials were used in writing the essay. Students received the topic and were given two hours, monitored, to write a 550-word limit essay.

PROMPT: "Our nation will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2026. Describe how the characteristics of a good citizen help to renew and strengthen the democracy achieved by the Patriots of the American Revolution.

PART III: _____ Points

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED (100 points possible) _____ 0 Points

Name of Judge _____

Signature of Judge _____ Date _____