

Illinois State Organization
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Marria Elliott Blinn, State Regent
American History Committee—2025–2026
Diana Weyhenmeyer, Chair
6 Delano Lane, Springfield, IL 62703-5312
weyhen@att.net 217-361-6345

American History Essay Contest

Grade level: 5-8, in public, private and parochial schools, and home-schooled.

Title: “Lunch with a Signer”

America will celebrate her 250th birthday on July 4, 2026! If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose? How did their actions and service contribute to our Country becoming independent?

DEADLINES: November 15, 2025 to chapter chair; December 15, 2025 to district chair; January 15, 2026 to state chair. **Send essays electronically. All winning essays must be sent with ALL judges’ forms at each judging level.**

Patriots of the American Revolution DAR High School Essay Contest

Grade Level: 9-12—in public, private, and parochial schools, and home-schooled

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(s) to the founding of a new nation. Your figure 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.

DEADLINES: December 1, 2025 to chapter chair; December 15, 2025 to state chair. **Send essays electronically. All winning essays must be sent with ALL judges’ forms at each judging level.** Rules for judging are outlined on the NSDAR website.

American History Video Contest

Grade level: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12—in public, private and parochial schools, and home-schooled.

American History students in grades 5-8 and 9-12 must choose between either the American History Essay OR American History Video Contest.

Title: “Lunch with a Signer”

Please contact your district chairs or me for correct information. Chapters will judge their entrants and send the winners to the state chair. **DEADLINE:** November 15, 2025. **Send videos electronically.**

Women in American History

For complete information, visit the American History Committee on the NSDAR Members’ Website. Certificates and medals are available at the DAR Store and may be presented to the honoree or her family; no NSDAR approval is required to purchase. **DEADLINE:** Send a complete report form and picture to the state chair at any time during the year; the official deadline is March 15, 2026.

Excellence in American History DAR Award

Chapters may recognize an outstanding student of American History (separate from participation in one of the American History essay contests or the Patriots of the American Revolution DAR Essay Contest) through the presentation of a certificate of award and/or a bronze medal. The chapter may determine eligibility and criteria for this award for any student in any grade.

<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/american-history/>