



**Illinois State Organization, NSDAR
Marria Elliott Blinn, State Regent**

Linda R. Gray, Illinois State DAR Good Citizens Chair

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2025

Dear Illinois Daughters:

In order to ensure a successful DAR Good Citizens year, be sure to:

- Contact schools and deliver all DAR Good Citizens materials immediately.
- Familiarize yourself with the NSDAR website as all of the information you will need is right at your fingertips – instructions and overview of the scholarship contest, sample cover letter, student cover sheet, and judges' evaluation form. This information is found in the Members only section of the NSDAR website. Click on *Committees*, then click on *DAR Good Citizens*.
- Use only the current year information. The bottom of the page should show – **2025**.

Please check the NSDAR website for the essay question. Note: **the entire topic must be addressed** in the essay or the entry will be disqualified. Students may use a computer to type their essay. The word limit is 550 words (title excluded). The word count must be at the end of the essay.

Important Deadlines:

- ***September 15, 2025*** ***Deliver materials to schools***
- ***November 1, 2025*** ***School winning essays and forms received by chapter chairman***
- ***December 1, 2025*** ***Chapter winning essay and forms mailed to district chairman***
- ***January 10, 2026*** ***District winning essay and forms mailed to state chairman***

Please note that the judging criteria has changed since last year, so familiarize yourself with the new evaluation form. You should use two or three **NON-DAR** members as your judges – the use of three judges is recommended. Remember to include the evaluation forms with your winning entry when you send the original to the next level for judging. Keep a copy!

Participating in the DAR Good Citizens program is an excellent way to promote the valuable work of our National Society and to honor outstanding students. It is important to honor the students and their families at a chapter function to express your appreciation for their accomplishments.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work. Please contact me with any questions.

Lynn Gray