



**Illinois State Organization
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Marria Elliott Blinn, State Regent**

Junior American Citizens Committee

Laura Kwak, State Chair
800 61st Street Downers Grove, IL 60516
laurakwak@sbcglobal.net (630) 670-8482

2025 Theme:

"Celebrating 250 Years of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; Happy Birthday America! 1776-2026"

The Junior American Citizens (JAC) Committee promotes civics education, American heritage and history, love of country, and service. Through JAC clubs and contests, America's children learn the principles of our democratic government and appreciation for our great country. Through these opportunities and recognition of the students' work, this committee hopes to encourage today's Junior American Citizens – the future leaders of our country.

The JAC Committee sponsors contests for children in preschool through grade 12 attending public, private, parochial or sanctioned home schools. Any child is eligible to participate in the contests – a child does not have to be a JAC club member or CAR member to enter. The contest categories are as follows:

Art:	Poster	Creative Expression:	Poetry	Community Service:	Individual Group
	Banner		Short Story		
	Postage Stamp		Graphic Novel/Comic		
	Digital Art				
	Photographic Essay				

Chapter JAC Chairs establish their own contest submission deadlines, and recognize contest winners at each grade level and contest category with certificates and pins. Chapter winners are emailed to the State JAC Chairman by **January 1, 2026**, for further judging and awards. Entries received after this date will not be considered. Keep the original entries, and email photos, scanned copies, or digital files along with a completed entry form for each submission.

For complete rules, instructions and entry forms, visit the DAR national website JAC Committee page:
<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/junior-american-citizens/committee-home>



IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA 250!
Illinois is sponsoring a Youth Poster contest



Theme: Illinois Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!

Participants: Children in grades K-12 are invited to create a poster depicting how Illinois is celebrating America's 250th birthday. Posters should be created on 12" x 18" construction paper using art media of the participant's choosing except oil and soft pastel crayons. The title "***Illinois Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!***" should appear at the top of the poster. Participants should label the back of the poster with their name, age, address, phone number, grade category, sub-category, date completed and sponsoring DAR chapter.

Chapter Level: Posters will be judged in two categories: "Regular" and "Special Needs" as well as by the following grades levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Chapters should choose one winner at each grade level in both categories and email a photo or scanned copy of the front and back of the winning entries to this chair by **January 15, 2026**. Chapters should keep track of the number of student participants in each category and grade level and submit this information along with the winning entries.

State Level: One winner from the "Regular" and one winner from the "Special Needs" categories for each grade level will be chosen. All winners will receive a monetary award and certificate. Their posters will be collected, framed, and displayed in a prominent community building or library in Illinois. Artwork will be returned to winners after being displayed. Email all entries to this chair's email address listed above by **January 15, 2026**.

***Encourage Illinois' youth to be creative and show us how
Illinois Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!***