

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

Jamie Herrmann, State Junior Membership Chair
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The purpose of the Junior Membership Committee is to nurture leadership, friendship, and service among DAR's youngest members, specifically those aged 18-35, also known as Junior Members. The Storage Administration theme for Junior Membership is *Juniors Blossom in Service*, and the emblem, a flourishing blossom, symbolizes the growth, dedication, and service that define Junior Membership. Juniors bring fresh ideas, new perspectives, and boundless energy that enrich our Society at the chapter, state, and national levels. Junior Members are encouraged to express their interest for the opportunity to be invited to serve as a page at State Conference and Continental Congress in D.C. (until 41st birthday), where they can volunteer, network, and gain mentorship.

The Committee is also devoted to recognizing juniors through the Outstanding Junior Contest, which honors Junior members for their dedication to DAR and their communities, while also recognizing the chapter's support of Junior Membership. Chapters should select a Junior (a member aged 18-35) as their OJ between 3/31/25 and 10/31/25, and notify the state chair for state recognition. If the Chapter Outstanding Junior has earned at least 10 points and wishes to participate in the national Outstanding Junior Contest, she should visit the Junior Membership Committee page on the DAR Members' Website for full details. Application deadline is October 31, 2025.

<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/junior-membership/outstanding-junior-member-contest>

In addition to promoting the objectives of the organization, Junior Membership endorses its own initiatives: the National Junior Committee Project, Junior Membership Classroom Grant Programs, and financing specific requests for the DAR Schools. The Classroom Grant Program awards two grants per state per cycle to K-12 teachers in each state and the District of Columbia for educational programs and supplies. All initiatives are funded through the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund (HPMF), established in 1938, which raises money through Junior Shoppe Sales and the NSDAR Junior Membership 5K. Please contact the State Junior Membership Committee with any questions.

Important Dates:

August 15 - October 15 – Fall 2025 HPMF Classroom Grant Applications open to teachers

Pre-October 31 – Chapters select chapter OJs & notify state chair for state-level recognition

October 31 – (11:59 PM Eastern timezone) Deadline to submit the 2026 State and National Outstanding Junior Contest. Eligible 2025 chapter OJs submit completed applications through the online portal; late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

November 1 & April 1- Chapters HPMF Classroom Grant Applications due to State Junior Membership Vice Chair Diana Kwak

December 1 – Notify State Regent of interest to page at State Conference and/or Continental Congress

March 1 – Registration opens for the 2026 Junior Membership 5K