

CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Sponsored by the National Patriotic Services Committee of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America

THE COLONIAL DAMES CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR WASHINGTON WORKSHOPS HISTORY

Since 1977 The National Patriotic Service Committee of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America has conducted annually a national essay contest. Winners of the contest receive full scholarships to attend a June session of The Washington Workshops Congressional Seminar in Washington, DC. The Seminar, a week-long citizenship program for secondary schools, is under the auspices of The Washington Workshops Foundation—a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational foundation. The goal of the essay contest is to teach and stimulate an awareness of US citizenship its privileges, opportunities and responsibilities. Every year a different essay topic is selected. Quantity and Quality (strong essay content and writing skill) are project objectives.

The week provides an opportunity for students from across the country and from many backgrounds to get to know each other and develop an understanding of the operations and purposes of our Government. The week is spent attending lectures by members of Congress and other high ranking government officials. Sessions are planned at the Pentagon, US Department of State, Federal Reserve Board, and the Bureau of Census. Visits are planned to Congressional Committee meetings, House and Senate Galleries, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution and foreign embassies. Speakers include Congressmen, Lobbyists, History and Government Professors from local universities, FBI personnel, Senators, Press secretaries and Political Satirists. Many of these speakers are alumni of the Washington Workshops. Our own New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez was a recipient of this scholarship opportunity and has sat on and continues to sit on the national board of the organization.

Washington is toured by day and night; free time is provided to do research and visit with congressmen. During the week winners are invited to a reception at Dumbarton House, headquarters of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America. The week culminates with a Model Congress which the students have worked on each evening.

The Washington Congressional Seminar Essay can be accessed on the national site for The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America at nscda.org by students, administrators, parents and faculty. Go to the Student Resources section right side on the top and pull down Congressional Essay Contest.