

**NSCDA Washington Workshop Scholarship
ESSAY RULES & INFORMATION**

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America is pleased to offer
this amazing opportunity to high school students!

The Essay Topic for the 2020 Congressional Seminar is:

"Why is history important? Why should we preserve our national treasures and how should we, as a nation, continue to preserve our lands and historic buildings?"

- Deadline December 1, 2019, postmark or by time/dated email.
- We welcome essays from 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students!
- If students are participating as part of a class or school project, please note that all students must submit an individual application form and essay.
- Students may enter online or send hard copies via USPS mail. Complete the online **Application**. Save (see below) or download/print the form. **If completing the form by hand, take care to make all information readable.**
- Essays (750 words or less, excluding topic/title and sources) must be typed, double-spaced and printed on one side of paper only. A cover page is strongly encouraged. The student's name and State should be on each page of the essay.
- The title of the essay must be the same as the essay topic. The topic must not be altered in any way.
- **SAVE** all essays as .PDF or Word .DOC; **NAME** your files: State + student's Last Name+ Essay or Application. As an example: if applying from Maryland the file would be: "MDSmithEssay.doc or MDSmithApp.pdf"
- Email or USPS mail essays with application to the local/State NSCDA Congressional Essay Chair or Patriotic Service Chair as directed or send to: Dames@NSCDA.org.
- If you do not have a Colonial Dame contact in your State please contact Dames@NSCDA.org to obtain the address for submission. Reference Essay Contest as subject of the email and give your name, city and state.
- Students submitting by paper should send their application form plus 3 copies of their essay.
- If more than five students are entering the contest online from one school, please also USPS mail a copy of each essay to your Colonial Dame contact.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ESSAYS:

1. Content – 50%
 - a. Adherence to Topic
 - b. Factual accuracy
 - c. Clarity of ideas
 - d. Logical development of ideas
2. Form - 25%
 - a. Grammar, spelling and punctuation
 - b. Use of words, vocabulary
 - c. Essay length – (750 words maximum)
3. Individuality – 25%
 - a. Writing skill or flair
 - b. Use of comparative facts, background information
 - c. Persuasiveness
 - d. Individuality – Handling subject and presenting ideas