

NSCDA Washington Week 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 2020 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, postmarked or by time/dated email. We welcome essays from current or rising 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 complete individual application form and essay.
- If students are participating as part of a class assignment, only the top 10 scoring essays per class should be selected to submit - unless specifically excepted by State Patriotic Service Chair.
- Do not attach or insert pictures or add any color text or images to any pages. Doing so interferes with copying and may result in lower scoring. The cover page should just contain the Essay Question or Questions with the student's name, address, and email.
- Students may enter online or completed fillable PDF online and SAVE and to FORWARD to teacher or the appropriated the State Patriotic Service/Essay Contest Chair. To complete the online **Application**. Save (see below) also download/print the form. **Take care to make all information readable. Please fill out the information completely.**
- Essays (750 words or less, excluding cover page data, topic/title and sources) must be typed, double-spaced and if printed, on one side of page only. 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; Use this style to **NAME** your files: State + student's Last Name +Initial of you first name+ Essay or Application. As an example: if applying from Maryland the file would be:
"MDSmithAEssay.doc or MDSmithAAApp.pdf"
- Email or USPS mail essays with application to the local/State NSCDA Congressional Essay Chair or Patriotic Service Chair as directed on contest poster or send to: dames@nscda.org.
- If you do not have a Colonial Dame contact for your State please email dames@nscda.org to obtain the address for submission. Reference Essay Contest
In the Subject line of the email: In the body of the email; again **Reference Essay Contest** and give your full name, city and state, email(s) and phone contacts.
- Students submitting by paper should send their application form plus 3 copies of each essay to the State Patriotic Service or Essay Chair.

NOTE: BONUS points: 1point bonus for complete information; 1 points for legibility;

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