



CONGRESSIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

GUIDE & TIMELINES FOR PATRIOTIC SERVICE CHAIRS & MISSION REPS

Dec. 1, 2025	Deadline for Corporate Society Commitment Forms
Dec. 1, 2025	Deadline for students' applications and essay submissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Societies to accept electronic submissions and/or paper submissions directly from the students.• Dumbarton House to accept electronic submissions from students.
Dec. 1-8, 2025	Applications and essays submitted directly to Dumbarton House by students are sorted and sent electronically to Corporate Societies.
*Dec. 11, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026	Corporate Society To-Do List: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm applications and essay submissions are complete and legible.• Confirm essays double spaced and printed one-sided• Distribute essays to panel of judges/readers for grading.• *Notify top essayists of opportunity to accept or decline participation in the Workshop Foundation Seminar. Obtain winners' commitment to attend.• *Name replacements, as needed, for winners who decline the Seminar opportunity.

***Note: Winners will be notified on a rolling basis in January and February, as each Corporate Society and the NSCDA Committee complete their respective processes.**

*Feb. 1, 2026	Deadline for Corporate Societies to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit confirmed state-sponsored scholarship winners' essays to the National Chair for CEC.• Submit up to three alternates' essays to National CEC Chair for additional scholarship judging.
March 1, 2026	Deadline for National Chair to submit finalized list of all winners to Workshop Foundation
March 15, 2026	Corporate Society Treasurer Forms and full payment sent to: NSCDA, Director of Finance and Administration 2715 Q Street, NW Washington, DC 20007-3071