



CONGRESSIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

Since 1977 The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America has conducted annually a national essay contest for high school students.



Winners of the contest receive full scholarships, including room and board, to attend the Seminar, a 4 day citizenship program held in Washington, DC. To date, more than 2,000 such NSCDA scholarships have been awarded.

The Seminar is under the auspices of the NSCDA's partner, The Workshops Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational foundation.

The goal of the essay contest is to instill an awareness of US citizenship with its privileges, opportunities and responsibilities.



Every year a different essay topic is selected. Essays are judged on essay content and writing skills.

The Seminar provides an opportunity for students from across the country and from many backgrounds to get to know each other and develop an understanding of one another's views as they learn about the operations and purposes of our government.



The days are spent attending lectures by government officials or visiting members of Congress.

Visits are planned to Congressional hearings, the Supreme Court, and the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier, to name a few. Free time is provided to do research and enjoy the fellowship of other students.

During the program winners are invited to a reception at Dumbarton House, the headquarters of the NSCDA. It culminates with a Model Congress which the students have worked on each evening.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- * developing informed and engaged citizens—our future voters and leaders
- * demonstrating democracy in action
- * showing how compromise can overcome our differences
- * engaging hundreds of high school students in participation

The National Society of
the Colonial Dames of America
nscda.org/grants&scholarships