



Are you in 5th through 12th grade?
You're invited to participate in a

Video Contest

Topic for 2026-2027

Announcement of the Declaration of Independence First Reading Grades 5–8

“To announce independence from Great Britain, the Declaration of Independence was publicly read in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. Following this reading, the word spread throughout the colonies in newspapers, more public readings, and posted notices. Imagine you lived in Philadelphia or an area of the colonies where news did not reach you for weeks. How would you react to hearing the Declaration read in your community? With whom would you share the news? What action would you take after hearing it? How would this have impacted your life?”

Revolutionary Era Figure Grades 9–12

Select a figure from the era of the American Revolution (1773–1783). Discuss how he or she influenced the course of the American Revolution, who he or she was and the contribution that historic character made to the founding of a new nation. Your figure must have been an actual person – one who is well-known or an everyday man, woman, or child, who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.

Video length, no more than 3 minutes. More details from Chapter.

DAR Chapter _____

Contact _____

Phone (251) _____ E-mail _____

Winners receive a
silver coin or a
check for \$100!



America 250th Anniversary 1
Ounce (Colorized) Silver
Round, .999...

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
AMERICAN HISTORY VIDEO CONTEST 2026-2027
 (This information is for chapter and school use)

ALL VIDEOS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY AS A MP4

TOPIC:	Announcement of the Declaration of Independence First Public Reading
GRADES 5–8	"To announce independence from Great Britain, the Declaration of Independence was publicly read in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. Following this reading, the word spread throughout the colonies in newspapers, more public readings, and posted notices. Imagine you lived in Philadelphia or an area of the colonies where news did not reach you for weeks. How would you react to hearing the Declaration read in your community? With whom would you share the news? What action would you take after hearing it? How would this have impacted your life?"
TOPIC:	Select a figure from the American Revolution (1773-1783). Discuss how he or she influenced the course of the American Revolution, who he or she was and the contribution that historic character made to the founding of a new nation. Your figure must have been an actual person – one who is well-known or an everyday man, woman, or child, who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.
GRADES 9–12	
PARTICIPANTS:	All grades 5-12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are homeschoolers, are eligible with one exception. A winner at the State, Division, or National level in the video contest will not be eligible to compete again in the same lower (5-8) or upper (9-12) grade level. An individual student may submit an entry directly to a DAR chapter if their class or school is not participating. Videos may be written and acted out by no more than two students. Categories for this contest will be: Grade 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9-12. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin.
LENGTH:	Video may be up to 3 minutes in length. Timing of the video begins when the first visual image appears or the first sound is heard. Timing ends when the last visual image or sound ends, including source credits. The student must announce only the title of the video and the student(s) name(s) before starting the video, which does not count for the 3 minutes.
FORM:	The video must be an original work written and created by the student(s). If professional photos, film/media clips, images, recorded music or anything that is copyrighted is used in the video, they must be properly cited in source credits at the end of the video. The entire video must be the student(s) original work and not by a parent, teacher, tutor, AI, or other helper. Each video must include a completed Title Page (AHC-1012) .
RESOURCES:	Video must have a list of all resources utilized. Four individual resources are expected. Internet resources, if used, should include the electronic address. **Any video with information copied directly from sources without using quotes (plagiarized) will be disqualified.**
JUDGING AND AWARDS:	Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, creativity, and that it is the student's own work. Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least two non-DAR judges. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members. CHAPTER: One video at each category grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the State American History chair for state competition. American History video contest chapter winner certificates and bronze medals may be presented by the chapter if desired. In addition, chapters may present certificates of participation to every student who participates in the video contest. STATE: One video at each category grade level is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the appropriate National Division Vice Chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a silver medal and state winner certificate. DIVISION: One video in each category grade level is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the National Vice Chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate and a blue ribbon. NATIONAL: First, second, and third place winners are selected at the national level. A certificate, gold pin, and monetary award are presented to the national first place winner at Continental Congress. Winning essays (or videos) may appear in official DAR communications. The national second and third place winners receive a certificate and a monetary award. Note: All videos must be submitted to a local chapter electronically by a teacher, school, or individual student. Videos sent directly to the National Chair or Vice Chair of the video contest will not be considered.
DEADLINE:	Chapter chairs should determine the date for teachers, schools, or individual students to forward essays to them to allow for judging to be completed prior to the state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines.</i> Date assigned _____

NAME, EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON

NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at
 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303 • Phone: (202) 879-3256

AMERICAN HISTORY COMMITTEE

Contests Signature Form

☐ American History Essay ☐ American History Video ☐ Patriots of the American Revolution Essay

This signature form, the winning essay/video, and the three judges scoring sheets, **at each level**, must be emailed to the next level.

Student Name _____ Grade Level _____

☐ School ☐ Student Address (choose one) _____

School Email _____ Parent Email _____

Chapter

Chapter Name _____ City/State _____

☐ Confirming essay/video has been judged by three judges (only one may be a DAR member), essay/video and judging score sheets are attached.

Name _____ Email _____

Signature _____

District/Region

☐ Confirming essay/video has been judged by three judges (n/a if no district in your state), essay/video and judging score sheets are attached.

District/Region Name _____ Email _____

Signature _____

State

☐ Confirming essay/video has been judged by three judges, essay/video and judging score sheets are attached.

State American History Chair _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signature _____

Division

☐ Confirming essay/video has been judged by three judges, essay/video and judging score sheets are attached.

National Division Vice Chair _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signature _____

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
American History Video
Electronic Contest Title Page* 2026–2027
Grades 5–12

Title of Video: Announcement of the Declaration of Independence First Public Reading – Grades 5–8
or

Title of Video: Revolutionary Era Figure – Grades 9–12

Subtitle (optional) _____

Contestant's Name(s) _____

Contestant's Grade Level _____

Contestant's Contact Information (email and/or complete address) _____

Contestant's Phone Number (with area code) _____

Contestant's School _____

School's Contact Information (optional) _____

Name of Sponsoring DAR Chapter _____

Length of Video in time _____

*Any missing information on the submission form will result in a lower score when judged.