



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
Sons of the American Revolution
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

October 1, 2011

2011-2012 NSSAR George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest

Dear Fellow Educator or Parent:

The **San Diego Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution** is pleased to announce the 2011-2012 George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, designed to give high school students an opportunity to explore events that shaped American History. The contest is open to all high school students in their sophomore, junior or senior year of study during the 2011-12 school year and we accept entries from students attending any public, parochial, private, or accredited home school in San Diego County. However, all students must be United States citizens or legal aliens.

Cash prizes are awarded to the winning essay at the chapter, state, and national levels. In addition, the winning essay at the national level will be submitted for publication in the SAR Magazine and receive airfare and one night accommodations for the winner and one chaperone at the SAR National Congress in July 2012.

All contest entries must be an original, researched and documented topic, in English, addressing an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Unsupported opinion papers will not be accepted. The deadline for the San Diego Chapter Contest is **January 2, 2012**. Copies of the contest rules and requirements can be downloaded from the San Diego Chapter website at <http://www.sandiegosar.org/>.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALL CONTEST RULES IS GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE ENTRY. Please take the time to read the rules carefully, prior to submittal of the essay.

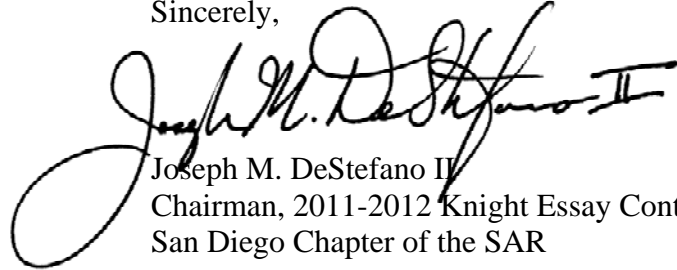


2011-2012 NSSAR Knight Essay Contest

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Please direct any questions regarding the Chapter Contest to me at KnightEssay@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (858) 336-9139. Thank you for your interest in the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, and best of luck to your student(s)!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph M. DeStefano II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Joseph M. DeStefano II
Chairman, 2011-2012 Knight Essay Contest
San Diego Chapter of the SAR

JMD:ns

Enclosure(s)



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest

2011-2012 SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CONTEST RULES

ALL ENTRANTS MUST FOLLOW THESE RULES. PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF YOUR ENTRY!

The following rules are for the San Diego Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. These are also provided on the San Diego SAR website at: <http://www.sandiegosar.org/>. While these rules follow the National Contest Format and Content Guidelines, contest rules and submittal requirements vary from Chapter to Chapter. These reflect the submittal requirements for the San Diego Chapter **only**. If you are not participating in the San Diego Contest, please check with your local chapter for their submittal guidance. Thank you!

1. This contest is open to all students who are United States citizens or legal aliens. Contestants shall be attending public, parochial, or private high schools (including accredited home schools). Contestants shall be in the **sophomore, junior or senior grade** of study during the contest year. The contest is conducted in three phases: local (Chapter), state (State Society) and National. The contest must be entered through a Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution near the student's residence. For an entry to be considered by the San Diego Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the student must reside in San Diego County. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year. The first place National winner is prohibited from participating in following years' contests.
2. The contest is for an original researched and proven topic written in English. The topic of the essay must deal with: *an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution*. Students must source at least five (5) references with the minimum of three being **published book sources** to allow for verification of sources if necessary. References from encyclopedias or internet sites will be accepted, **but are not considered as part of the three published book sources**. If there are no book sources (i.e. all are from encyclopedias or internet sources), the **essay will be disqualified**.
3. The essay must have four parts: a) title page, b) essay pages, c) bibliography (works cited), and d) contestant's biography. The title page, bibliography and contestant's biography must be listed on separate pages and no reference to the contestant's name or information can be part of the Essay pages or Bibliography. Please follow these rules exactly. ***Essays that do not conform to the rules may be immediately disqualified.***
 - a. The title page must include the title of the essay, contestant's name, address, telephone number, and email address (if available). In addition, the title page must include the name, address, and telephone number of the high school in which the contestant is enrolled, and the contestant's grade level.
 - b. The essay must have a minimum of 800 words and may not exceed 1,200 words (excluding title page, footnotes, bibliography page, and biography page). (Word counts based on a word processor are acceptable). The First page of the Essay must include the title of the essay. No contestant information must appear on these pages as they are separated and distributed to the judges for

grading to prevent possible grading bias. The essay must be typed double-spaced on white bond paper. No bindings or special covers are needed. Graphics are not permitted. An original copy of the essay must be submitted. Poor quality copies will not be accepted. *Plagiarism will be grounds for immediate disqualification.*

- c. The essay and bibliography must be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (see www.mla.org) or Kate L. Turabian's publication, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (see www.bridgew.edu/Library/turabian.cfm).
 - d. The contestant's biography is limited to one page. Topics to be included in the biography are academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, and plans for college.
4. The deadline for the 2011-2012 San Diego Chapter contest is **January 2, 2011**. Entries postmarked or emailed after this date will **not** be accepted. Please note that the chapter deadline is earlier than National Contest Deadline to allow us sufficient time review the entries, select a chapter winner, and forward the winner's entry to the State contents in time for the State Contest Deadline.
- a. For submittal by U.S. Mail, entries must be submitted to the following address:

SAR San Diego Chapter Knight Essay Contest
c/o Mr. Joseph M. DeStefano II, Chairman
18340 Yorba Linda Blvd., Ste. 107-405
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

- b. For submittal by e-mail, entries should be emailed to:

KnightEssay@sbcglobal.net

Electronic submittals will only be accepted in Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) only!
All e-mailed entries must follow all format guidelines outlined above. Any entry submitted electronically not in PDF Form or not meeting the content and format requirements listed above **will be disqualified.**

5. Essays which meet the criteria in Rules 1-3 above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria:
- a. Historical accuracy
 - b. Clarity of thought
 - c. Organization and proven topic
 - d. Grammar and spelling
 - e. Documentation

6. **AWARDS:**

San Diego Chapter Local Awards

- **First Place:** \$150; a recognition certificate and winner's medallion; the opportunity to present (read) your essay at a Chapter Meeting in Spring 2012; and submission of your essay to the California State Society contest.
- **Second Place:** \$100 and a recognition certificate.
- **Third Place:** \$50 and a recognition certificate.

California State Society Award

- **First Place:** \$500; a recognition certificate; the opportunity to present (read) your essay at a State Society Meeting in Spring 2012; and submission of your essay to the National Society contest.

National Society:

- **First place:** \$2,000; a winning recognition certificate and medal; airfare and **one** night hotel stay for the winner and a chaperone at the SAR Annual Congress.
- **Second Place:** \$1,000
- **Third Place:** \$ 500

7. The winning essay of the national contest will be submitted for publication in **The SAR Magazine**. Participants in this contest agree that their essay may be published in **The SAR Magazine** and on the NSSAR Knight Essay Contest webpage. Winning essay participants, on all levels, must supply a social security number or alien identification/green card number in order to receive their award.
8. Participants in this contest agree that the interpretation of rules and decisions of the NSSAR, CASSAR, San Diego Chapter, and its judges must govern without reservation.

Note: If you are not in the San Diego County area, and for information on locating a Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in your area, please see the listing of State Society contacts at www.sar.org.

Please direct any questions regarding the Chapter Contest to:

Mr. Joseph (Joe) DeStefano II, Knight Essay Chair
San Diego Chapter SAR
858-336-9139
KnightEssay@sbcglobal.net

**Please do not submit San Diego Contestant inquiries to the National or State Chairman.
Good Luck!**