

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST 2009-2010**

(This information is for chapter and school use)

<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>2009-2010 topic is: Discuss and analyze Christopher Columbus' early influences and experiences and how these contributed to successes and failures in his voyages of exploration.</b>
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	<b>All grade 9, 10, 11, 12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible.</b> This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. <b>DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	Length is to be from 800–1,200 words. See guidelines for judges for more detail.
<b>FORM:</b>	<p>Essay must be typed, or prepared on a computer or word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. In this case, a written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher's or physician's letter attesting to the student's special need.</p> <p>All of the essay must be the student's original work.</p> <p>Each essay must have a title page listing the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Title of essay: <b>"Christopher Columbus' Early Influences and Experiences"</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contestant's full name and address. (Street, RR, PO Box, City, State, Zip Code) <u>Note:</u> If the school's regulations prohibit student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contestant's telephone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of contestant's school and grade level</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of sponsoring DAR chapter</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Number of words in essay</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Any essay without a title page will be disqualified.</i></p>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY:</b>	<b>Essay must have a bibliography listing all references utilized. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in similar format to that used for printed resources. Add the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information.</b> Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<p><b>Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and neatness. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions will not be considered in judging and should not be included.</b></p> <p><b>CHAPTER:</b> One essay is selected as chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chairman for the state competition. Certificates may be presented by sponsoring chapter, if desired. A Christopher Columbus Essay Certificate is available from The DAR Store.</p> <p><b>STATE:</b> One essay is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the division vice chairman of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a state winner certificate.</p> <p><b>DIVISION:</b> One essay in each division is selected as the division winner and forwarded to the national vice chairman in charge of the Christopher Columbus essay contest. National division winners will be recognized by NSDAR.</p> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b> One essay is selected as the national winner and the winner is invited to attend Continental Congress to be recognized. Second and third place winners are also selected. Judging at the national level is conducted by the National Italian American Foundation. The <b>national winner</b> will receive \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October 2010 for the winner and one parent or guardian. The national winner must read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day (October 11, 2010). The second place national winner will receive \$500, and the third place national winner will receive \$300.</p> <p>(Chapters and States may present monetary awards and/or gifts in addition to the certificates if desired. DAR American History Essay Medals are <b>not</b> authorized for this contest.)</p> <p><b>Note: All essays must first be submitted to a local chapter. Essays sent directly to the national chairman or vice chairman of the Columbus Contest will not be considered.</b></p>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairmen should determine date for students/schools to forward essays to them to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. <i>States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines. Date Assigned:</i>

**NAME 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, D.C. 20006-5303 Phone: (202) 879-3256