

Berks County Chapter, NSDAR
National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
<http://www.dar.org>

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Dear School Officials, Parents and Students:

The Daughters of the American Revolution is seeking Berks County students in grades 5 through 8 to participate in the 2016-2017 American History Essay Contest. The general contest rules and guidelines are enclosed with this mailing.

This year's topic: "Celebrating a Century: America's National Parks"
The National Park Service was established by Congress in 1916. The National Park Service manages approximately 84.4 million acres of national parks. Pretend you are writing a journal while visiting one of the 58 national parks. Identify its location. Discuss why and when it was established as a national park. What makes this park one of our national treasures?

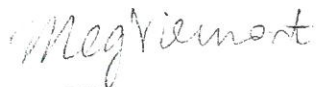
The winner at the local level will be submitted for competition at the state level. We offer bookstore gift certificate prizes to the winners, and we honor them in the spring at our chapter meeting. We also recognize each participant with an award certificate from DAR.

Students are encouraged to submit their entries electronically via email, or they may be mailed to my home address above.

Thank you for your attention to this year's exciting topic, and please forward to the appropriate teachers and students! Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

The essay submission deadline is Friday, December 23, 2016.

Sincerely,



Meg Vilmont
Chairperson, American History Committee



Moving Forward in Service to America!

**Are you in 5th through 8th grade?
You're invited to participate in an**

Essay Contest

Topic for 2016–2017

The National Park Service was established by Congress in 1916. The National Park Service manages approximately 84.4 million acres of national parks. Pretend you are writing a journal while visiting one of the 58 national parks. Identify its location. Discuss why and when it was established as a national park. What makes this park one of our national treasures?

Title of Essay

“Celebrating a Century: America’s National Parks”

Open to Grades 5–8

Length 300–1,000 words (depending on grade level)

For information contact:

DAR chapter Benks County

Contact Meg Vilmont

Phone (610) 927-1853 E-mail megvilmont@gmail.com

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST 2016–2017
(This information is for chapter and school use)

TOPIC:	Topic for 2016–2017: The National Park Service was established by Congress in 1916. The National Park Service manages approximately 84.4 million acres of national parks. Pretend you are writing a journal while visiting one of the 58 national parks. Identify its location. Discuss why and when it was established as a national park. What makes this park one of our national treasures?
PARTICIPANTS:	All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.
LENGTH:	Grade 5: 300–600 words Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600–1,000 words
FORM:	Essay is to be handwritten in black ink, 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. A written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher's or physician's letter attesting to the student's special need. All of the essay must be the student's original work. Each essay must have a title page listing the following: Title of Essay: "Celebrating a Century: America's National Parks" (A subtitle is permitted if written below the topic.) Contestant's full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) <u>Note:</u> If the school's regulations prohibit providing the student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted. Contestant's phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available Name of contestant's school with grade level indicated Name of sponsoring DAR chapter Number of words in essay
BIBLIOGRAPHY:	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. Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
JUDGING AND AWARDS:	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. Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least one non-DAR judge. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members. CHAPTER: One essay at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition. American History essay 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 essay contest. These supplies are available from The DAR Store. STATE: One essay at each 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 essay in each grade is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the national vice chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate. NATIONAL: One essay in each grade is selected as the national winner. A certificate, gold pin and monetary award is presented to each national winner at Continental Congress in June 2016. Winning essays may appear in official DAR communications. <i>Note: All essays must first be submitted to a local chapter. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the essay contest will not be considered.</i>
DEADLINE:	Chapter chairs 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 Meg Vilmant 610-927-1553

NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER Berks County megvilmant@gmail.com

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