



2026 Essay Contest

The Tennessee Association of Fairs and the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution are sponsoring an America's 250th Anniversary Essay Contest for all 4th and 5th graders enrolled in public schools, private schools, or those being home-schooled.

Topic:

The Signing of the Declaration of Independence

What was its purpose, and why was this a dangerous risk for the men who signed it?

Rules:

1. Each contestant must enter the contest through their local county fair. *Essays are due by August 26, 2026, to wjudd42@gmail.com*
2. Essay Must Not Exceed 500 Words.
3. Judging will be conducted at each fair, and a winner will be selected by the fair's appointed judges.
4. At the fair's conclusion, each fair will submit the winning essay and the contact information of the winner to the representative of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.
5. All fairs must submit entries no later than November 20, 2026.
6. A panel of judges from the SAR will determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place statewide winners.
7. The 1st-place winner will be invited to attend the Tennessee Association of Fairs Annual Convention on Saturday, January 16, 2027, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Murfreesboro, TN. At the convention, the winner will read his/her winning essay and be presented with a check for \$500.

Awards(s):

1. The winner of each county fair will receive an Award of Achievement from the Sons of the American Revolution, and a Commemorative America 250th Pin.
2. The three (3) state finalists will receive the following: 1st Place: \$500, 2nd Place: \$300, and 3rd Place: \$200.

For more information or questions:

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