



Joseph S. Rumbaugh High School Historical Oration Contest New Jersey State Society Entry Form Packet

The deadline for state entries is January 31st of each contest year.

Thank you for your interest in participating in the *Joseph S. Rumbaugh High School Historical Oration Contest* sponsored by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. following. To participate, each contestant must submit the following documents.

1. Signed *Contestant Entry Form* (Page 1)
2. **Biographical Sketch** (Page 2)
3. Signed and initialed ***Guardian Agreement & Release*** (Pages 3,4,5)
4. MS Word.doc copy of the oration.
5. Student/Contestant's photograph.
6. Video.mp4 of the Oration (*required for the National Contest*)

Your form must be completed and sent to your NJSSAR Chapter President, or representative. If your local chapter does not have a president, or representative, you may submit you entry form to the NJSSAR Education Committee Chair, Roger S. Williams, roger@princetonsar.org If you have any questions, contact Roger S. Williams via email, or call 609-389-5657

Contestant Entry Form

*Joseph S. Rumbaugh High School Historical Oration Contest
National Society, Sons of the American Revolution*

THE FOLLOWING REQUIRES THE SIGNATURES OF BOTH THE CONTESTANT AND COACH. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

In entering this contest we understand the oration must be an original composition, of not less than five minutes, or more than six minutes. We are aware that this oration, in the chapter, state and national contest, must be given from memory and without the use of notes or any kind of props. We understand that in composing this oration the subject shall deal with an event, a personality, or a document, pertaining to the Revolutionary War, showing the relationship it bears to America today. It is understood that we can create the title of the oration.

We agree that the interpretation of rules and decisions of the NSSAR and its judges shall govern without reservation. Judges' notes and collective contestant ranking are the property of the SAR and will not be provided to the contestants, but will be destroyed immediately after the contest.

(Date)

(Contestant's Signature)

(Signature of Contestant's Coach)

NOTE: If this contestant becomes the State entrant for national competition, the state chairman is responsible for forwarding this entry form with the other documents to the national chairman.

(over)

Student Biographical Sketch

Please complete the following biographical sketch. If necessary you may attach an additional sheet for extended comments.

NAME _____

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

YOUR NICKNAME OR THE NAME YOU GO BY _____

ADDRESS _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(ZIP)

DATE OF BIRTH _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (____) _____

CLASS 9, 10, 11, OR 12
(Circle Grade)

SCHOOL _____ ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES _____

YOUR FUTURE PLANS _____

Please email or mail a copy of the following items to the SAR Chapter or State Oration contest chairman:

1. **Signed Contestant Entry Form** (Page 1)
2. **Biographical Sketch** (Page 2)
3. Signed and initialed **Guardian Agreement & Release** (Pages 3,4,5)
4. MS Word.doc copy of the oration.
5. Student/Contestant's photograph.
6. Video.mp4 of the Oration (*required for the National Contest*)

Guardian Agreement and Release

For participation in youth contest sponsored by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution

WHEREAS, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and its constituent state and local organizations (collectively hereinafter "SAR"), an historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit corporation organized pursuant to Chapter 1533, Title 36 United States Code and maintaining tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, comprises the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the War for American Independence; and

WHEREAS, as a part of its educational outreach, SAR conducts several youth award programs and contests at the National, state, and local level which may encourage submissions from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the eligibility, rules for entry, topics, deadlines for submission of entries, timelines for judging, criteria for selection of winning entries or participants, rules and regulations for each program and prizes are established at the sole discretion of the SAR and additional terms for submission of materials of all types and forms including photographs, writings, drawings, electronic media may be found at www.sar.org; and

WHEREAS, by entering into a contest, submitting materials, photographs, drawings, speeches, electronic, written or oral presentations the contestant, or in the case of a minor their legal parent or guardian, agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the contests and programs as determined by SAR, in its sole discretion;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned agrees that by submitting materials or participating in the indicated contest you warrant and represent that materials of all types and forms including photographs, writings, drawings, electronic media and speeches for contests are wholly original and of your own creation, and that you are the sole owner of all rights relating to the same. You unconditionally assign and transfer all ideas, concepts, copyrighted materials and trademarks used by permission, if any, contained in the submissions to SAR and its agents, licensees and assigns. SAR and its agents, licensees and assigns have the right to use, assign, modify, edit, adapt, dispose, and electronically alter the submissions, including but not limited to cause them to appear in promotional and/or commercial materials, as well as to reproduce them, in whole or in part, without compensation or additional consent from you or any third party. If the submitted entries contain any material or elements that are not owned by the contestant and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, and/or if any persons appear in the submissions, the contestant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission of the entry, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the exhibition and use of the entry without compensation. If any person appearing in any submission is under the age of majority in their state of residence the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required on each release.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that by entering into the indicated contest, all contestants grant an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide non-exclusive license to SAR, to reproduce, distribute, display and create derivative works of the entries (along with a name credit) in connection with the contest and promotion of the contest, in any media now or hereafter known, including, but not limited to: Display at any potential exhibition of contestants or winners; publication of a magazine article or internet display featuring select entries in contests; publication in The SAR Magazine or SAR websites online highlighting entries or winners of the contest. Contestants consent to the SAR doing or omitting to do any act that would otherwise infringe the contestant's "moral rights" in their entries. Display or publication of any entry on an SAR's website or elsewhere does not indicate the contestant will be selected as a winner. Additionally, by entering, each contestant grants to SAR the unrestricted right to use all statements made in connection with the contest, and pictures, videos or likenesses of contest entrants, or choose not to do so, at their sole discretion. SAR will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such use. These grants inure to the benefit of the SAR and its agents, licensees and assigns, including but not limited to local and state SAR organizations and Vested Interest Publications, Inc.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that by entering the indicated contest, all entrants agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless the SAR and its partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, publication agencies, agents and their employees, officers, directors, and representatives from any claims, losses, and damages arising out of their participation in a contest or any contest-related activities and the acceptance and use, misuse, or possession of any prize awarded hereunder. Participants agree that the SAR and its agents, licensees and assigns are to be held harmless by the contestant for any claims, issues, demands, losses or actions that arise from or are related to their submission of materials for contests, including third party claims of copyright infringement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that SAR assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, or delay in operation or transmission; communications line failure; mail or courier delays, theft or destruction of or unauthorized access to entries; or alteration of entries. In the case of any communication by electronic means, if authorized by program or contest rules, SAR is not responsible for any problems with or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer online systems, servers or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of any email entry to be received on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website, human errors of any kind, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to entrants or any other persons computers related to or resulting from participation, uploading or downloading of any materials related to SAR contests.

FINALLY, IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED, that SAR reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual who does not comply with established entry rules, criteria for eligibility, or who tampers with the entry process, and/or to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend any program or contest. If SAR elects to cancel or terminate any program or contest, SAR shall continue to retain any rights in the submitted materials and the submitting contestant

shall continue to be bound by the published rules and the provisions of this Authorization and Release.

By my signature below, I acknowledge for myself, a person of lawful age and majority in my state of residence; or in the case of an entry submitted on behalf of a minor, I acknowledge as the minor's lawful parent or guardian, that I have read the published rules and regulations relating to the program or contest identified below; that I agree to be bound by the contest rules and regulations; that I agree to the terms and provisions of this Authorization and Release for myself or my minor child and acknowledge to be bound by same, that I understand the provisions set forth, and that I have executed the same freely and voluntarily.

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____, and executed in the city and state of _____, by the undersigned, a person of lawful age and majority, for myself, or for the benefit of any minor child contestant as their lawful parent or guardian.

GuardianSignature_____

Printed Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

In the case of execution of this document on behalf of a minor child, the printed name of the child for whom you have executed this Agreement and Release:

Student/Youth Name_____

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Judging Criteria

COMPOSITION: (15 points maximum)

Delivery relates to how the speaker communicates, and composition relates to what the speaker says. A skillful orator with weak arguments and poor organization is wasting the audience's time because the orator is unlikely to persuade the audience to accept a weak thesis no matter how well it is delivered.

Organization. The speaker should clearly state the thesis early in the talk, so the audience thinks about it throughout the talk. Then the speaker should begin building his case with examples, quotes, rhetorical questions, logic, and any other methods that support the thesis. The speaker should use the arguments to draw a logical conclusion for the audience and prove the thesis. The conclusion should pull it all together and show how the thesis has been established. Examples of arguments, which do not directly support the main thesis, may confuse the audience and detract from the argument.

Vocabulary, Syntax, and Grammar. To a skillful orator, words are the brushes and colors which paint a picture for an audience. Carefully chosen words create a precise message. Words should be chosen to convey the message, not simply to impress the audience that the orator knows big words. The goal is to persuade.

Logic. Once the speaker establishes the thesis, the entire speech should be designed to support and prove that thesis. Examples or arguments that do not logically support the thesis should be discounted. Flamboyant statements unrelated to the thesis or statements calculated to appeal to a perceived bias of the audience may be discounted as irrelevant. The ultimate determination as to whether the speaker's composition is logical will occur after you hear all of the speech and, ignoring the delivery, decide if the arguments and examples supported and proved the thesis.

DELIVERY: (40 points maximum)

This is an oratorical contest so a significant number of points should be allocated to the speaker's oratorical skills. There are three main areas to look at, which are as follows:

Voice. How well does the speaker pronounce all of the words and enunciate them properly? The speaker's voice should be modulated from soft to loud and not monotone. The pace and cadence should be varied. A speaker who consistently speaks too fast and is difficult to understand should not be graded as highly as someone who is understanding. Does the speaker speak loudly enough to be heard? A good speaker has a rhythmic style, which is smooth and persuasive. Speakers who yell simply for the shock value may have weaker arguments or poor oratorical skills.

Body Movement and Gestures. Speakers who pace back and forth are distracting. Some movement, however, if it is done for emphasis or to serve as a break between points or sections, can be powerful. Points should not necessarily be subtracted if a speaker stands rigidly in one place, as body movement is not required for an effective oration. Gestures are one of the hardest oratorical tools a speaker must master. Gestures should seem to spring up effortlessly, almost as an afterthought. A gesture that appears mechanical, awkward or rehearsed distracts from a speech and causes the audience to think about the clumsy gesture and not what is being said. An orator is better off not using gestures if the gestures are not natural. Gestures should be employed to emphasize points in the speech and not just using a gesture.

Appearance. Audiences derive their first impression of an orator by perceiving his or her appearance. Well-trimmed and combed hair and well-pressed clothing are noted immediately. Conservative attire generally conveys to the audience that the speaker is credible, believable, and sincere. Orators speak to entertain, inform, or persuade, and the finest orators can do all three at once. The typical orator in our contest will give a speech designed to persuade the audience as to the speaker's thesis. If the audience believes the orator is not credible or sincere, they will unlikely be persuaded by the orator's arguments, and the oration must be judged a failure. An intangible to consider is the speaker's charisma or stage presence. Some speakers can connect with an audience and project a feeling of authority and believability that can be a powerful, persuasive tool.

Significance: (15 points maximum)

The study of history can be interesting, but it is not particularly relevant to our daily lives unless a meaningful connection can be established. The American Revolution may not contain much of interest for most Americans today unless it can be shown to be relevant to our everyday lives. The SAR exists to make the American Revolution come alive, to show its importance to our lives today, and to reaffirm Americans' beliefs in those principles of patriotism and sacrifice.

Do the people or events referenced in the speech typify the American spirit or character, and does it offer glimpses into how we view the world today? Are there lessons to be learned from the founding of our country which offer insights into what our country should do today? These are all questions that could be relevant and important to us today. The oration should ask these questions and then be able to answer them affirmatively.

History: (30 maximum points)

We are an organization devoted to studying, preserving, and promoting the history of the American Revolution and our founding fathers. No one should ever win our oratorical contest unless his or her speech is firmly grounded in that era of history. The speech should focus on some aspect of the American Revolution or the founding of our country. A passing reference to the founding of our country as an excuse to devote most of the speech to some other subject should result in a severe downgrading in this category.

While there is nothing wrong with reciting familiar tales from the Revolutionary War, it may be worth more points if the speaker did some original research or perhaps analyzed old facts and came up with a novel interpretation or theory. The emphasis on the history of the American Revolution in the speech should make it apparent to any listener that the oration is designed for the SAR and not the American Legion or some other patriotic organization. While there is nothing inherently wrong with a speech lauding the World War II soldier, or the charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish American War, it is not the focus of the SAR. The winning speech should be the best oration by the best orator on a subject central to the beliefs and goals of the SAR.