

# JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZEN

CONTEST  
FOR PRE-K  
- 12 GRADE

 **DAR**  
Daughters of the American Revolution

REVISED 7/23/2025

## 2025-2026 THEME:

“Celebrating 250 Years of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; Happy Birthday America.”

### ART

#### BANNER

(Groups of 3-5;  
Grades Pre-K to 12)

#### STAMP

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

#### POSTER

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

#### PHOTO ESSAY

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

#### DIGITAL

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

### CREATIVE EXPRESSION

#### POETRY

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

#### SHORT STORY

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

#### GRAPHIC NOVEL/COMIC

(Individual; Grades 1-12)

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

**INDIVIDUAL;**  
Grades 1-12

#### GROUPS OF 3 OR MORE;

Grades PreK12. Can be  
mixed ages

Great project for a JAC Club!

### COMPETITION CATEGORIES

LOCAL DAR CHAPTER: Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter

CHAPTER CHAIR: Debra Carlson

CONTACT INFORMATION: DebCarDAR@gmail.com

SUBMIT ENTRY TO CHAPTER CHAIR BY September 26, 2025





# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

*Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General*

---

**JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE — Niki Rittenhouse, *National Chair***  
60 Old Town Road, Unit 166, Vernon, CT 06066-6412 ★ (816) 807-0473 ★ jac@nsdar.org

---

## **JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE CONTEST GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS/LEADERS/PARENTS**

**2025–2026 Theme:**

**“Celebrating 250 Years of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness:  
Happy Birthday, America! 1776–2026!”**

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution created the Junior American Citizens (JAC) Committee to promote good citizenship and appreciation of American heritage and history among every school-age child in the United States. The JAC Committee offers contests in art, creative expression, and community service. This packet contains instructions for entering JAC Contests.

### **JAC CONTEST RULES**

Contests are conducted without regard to gender, race, color, religion, or national origin. All children in pre-school through grade 12 are encouraged to participate; however, pre-school and kindergarten students may participate only in the banner and group community service project categories. Youth groups such as scout troops, C.A.R. societies, and service organizations, as well as schools, may participate in the contests. Entries are judged by grade on four levels (gifted artist/writer, general, special needs/special effort and non-declared unspecified) so that every child may enter the contest regardless of ability. This information is carefully guarded and no certificate or award medal will indicate a specific level.

All entries except community service **must** follow the above theme and meet the specifications of the category entered. Each entry must have a legible, fully completed entry form securely attached to the reverse side. Group entries are accepted in the banner and community service categories only. A group must have three to five in the banner category only. In the community service category, a group is composed of three or more members. All members of a group should be listed with their individual grade.

Sponsoring DAR chapter Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter  
DAR contact person Debra Carlson  
Phone ( 650 ) 477-1775 E-mail DebCarDAR@gmail.com  
Deadline for returning entries to the DAR chapter September 26, 2025



# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

---

## JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE

### JAC FACT SHEET



The JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS (JAC) Contest is sponsored by the Charlotte Parkhurst  
Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The Chapter Chairman of the JAC Committee is  
Debra Carlson, DebCarDAR@gmail.com and her phone number is (650 ) 477-1775  
She is the first person you should call if you have questions or need assistance.

JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS is the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution's second oldest youth-oriented committee, preceded only by the Children of the American Revolution. The Committee had its beginnings in October 1901, when a club was organized "to teach ... children some knowledge of the underlying principles of our government, of American sentiment, and of all that will go toward making them good citizens." JAC became an established NSDAR committee in 1906. The JAC contest, with an annual theme designed to promote good citizenship and history, can easily be incorporated into the classroom curriculum and offers opportunities for public recognition of today's young people—the future leaders of our country.

The JAC Contest is open to all youth, pre-school through high school in 3 groups giving all children the opportunity to be a winner. Schools, scout troops, day care, church groups, education centers and C.A.R. offer excellent opportunities for implementing the JAC contest. The contest may be structured differently for each group. In schools, student councils may organize a service project involving all children, art teachers may encourage design of a poster during class, and English teachers may incorporate the poem or short story into their studies. Youth groups can participate in the areas where their interests lie. Entries are judged by age and category. Award certificates are given at the Chapter, State and Division levels. Certificates and award medals are given the National level. Your DAR Chapter will provide you with the current JAC Contest theme, rules and entry forms. The Chapter will also lend moral support and help whenever possible. There are no fees associated with the JAC Contest.

The **THATCHER AWARD** pin and citation are available for presentation by the sponsoring DAR Chapter or the JAC Chairman to any adult with outstanding service to JAC or good citizenship. For more information about this **VERY SPECIAL AWARD**, consult the national Website under Committees.





# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

*Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General*

---

**JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE — Niki Rittenhouse, *National Chair***  
60 Old Town Road, Unit 166, Vernon, CT 06066-6412 ★ (816) 807-0473 ★ jac@nsdar.org

---

## **JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE CONTEST CATEGORIES**

**2025–2026 Theme:**

**“Celebrating 250 Years of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness:  
Happy Birthday, America! 1776–2026”**

### **ART CONTEST**

- **Poster:** **Individual entry.** Grades 1-12 – Design a poster using the theme. Original art work only, not from other sources. Minimum size: 8-1/2" x 11" Maximum size 22" x 28". Poster may be laminated or placed in a protective sleeve. May be submitted using any form of drawing or painting. NOTE: The poster does not have to have the actual theme on the artwork but should follow the theme.
  
- **Stamp Design:** **Individual entry.** Grades 1-12 – Design a postal stamp using the theme. **Original art work only.** Exact size: 5" x 7" drawn in the center of an 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of white paper. The paper should be white because the vast majority of envelopes are white, thus the stamp design is viewed in the way it would actually be used. Stamp designs may be laminated or placed in a protective sleeve. May be submitted using any form of drawing or painting. NOTE: The stamp does not have to have the actual theme on the artwork but should follow the theme.
  
- **Photo Essay:** **Individual entry.** Grades 1-12 – The student will submit not more than 25 color photographs illustrating the theme. These photos must be the original photos **taken by the child.** The photos should be mounted with glue on 8-1/2" x 11" paper. Brief captions may appear on each page. Include a title page. Remember, this is an ART contest, your pictures should tell the story.
  
- **Banner:** **Groups of three to five only, Pre-K through Grade 12.** All members of a group should be listed with their individual grades. Design an original banner using the theme. Size: Use a 1:3 ratio, to a maximum size of 16" x 48". Banners may be paper or fabric. If the banner has support rods, do not submit them. Objects attached to banners should be glued or sewn on securely. For the safety of the judges, do not use straight or safety pins. NOTE: The banner does not have to have the actual theme on the artwork but should follow the theme.

- **Digital:** **Individual entry. Grades 1-12.** Design an original digital image using the theme. **Digital art must be original work** without the use of clip and/or stock art, logo, trademarks or otherwise display copyrighted content which does not belong to the participant. Maximum size of 8" x 10" (2400 x 3000 pixels–300 DPI). Digital art may be submitted hard copy or in JPG or PNG format and should not exceed 5MB. NOTE: The digital art does not have to have the actual theme on the artwork but should follow the theme.

#### **CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTEST**

- **Poem:** **Individual entry. Grades 1-12 –** Write an original poem, any style, of 300 words or fewer using the theme. Entries should be on 8-1/2" x 11" paper, either ruled or plain. Poems may be placed in a plastic sleeve for protection.
- **Short Story:** **Individual entry. Grades 1-12 –** Write an original short story of 1,000 words or fewer using the theme. The story may be written from the first person or third person point of view. \* Entries should be on 8-1/2" x 11" paper, either ruled or plain. Short stories may be placed in a plastic sleeve for protection.  
\* While a short story may contain historical places and people, it is a work of fiction. It is not a report.
- **Graphic Novel/Comic:** **Individual entry. Grades 1-12 –** Design an original graphic novel/comic using the theme. Entries should be on 8-1/2" x 11" paper and may contain 6–10 squares per page. Maximum size of the novel should be no more than 5 pages. May be submitted using any form of drawing or painting. NOTE: The Graphic novel/comic does not have to have the actual theme on the artwork but should follow the theme.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTEST**

- **Community Service:** **Individual entry or group of three or more members Pre-K through Grade 12.** Groups may be mixed. All members of a group should be listed with their individual grades. Entries should consist of no more than 15 color photographs with a descriptive text of 500 words or fewer. Identify all photographs with captions. Photographs for this contest may include pictures of the children. NOTE: Students can enter the Community Service Contest (Individual or Group) as well as one entry into either an Art Contest or Creative Expression Contest.

# Junior American Citizens

*Helping tomorrow's citizens shine brightly today!*

## What is JAC?

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest DAR youth oriented committee
- Its purpose is to teach:
  - Civics and principles of our government
  - Love of country
  - Patriotism
  - American History
  - What it means to be a good citizen:
    - At home
    - In the classroom
    - In an organization
    - In the community
- Build future leaders of America

## Contests

- *Art*
  - Banner (Groups of 3-5; Grades Pre-K to 12)
  - Stamp (Individual; Grades 1-12)
  - Poster (Individual; Grades 1-12)
  - Photo Essay (Individual; Grades 1-12)
  - Digital (Individual; Grades 1-12)
- *Creative Expression*
  - Poetry (Individual; Grades 1-12)
  - Short Story (Individual; Grades 1-12)
- *Community Service*
  - Individual; Grades 1-12
  - Groups of 3 or more; Grades PreK-12. Can be mixed ages
  - Great project for a JAC Club!



*3 Group Levels for every contest*  
 1 – Gifted; 2 – General; 3 – Special Needs

*800+ National Awards are presented each year*

## Clubs

- Meet as often as every day or as little as once per year
- Can form in conjunction with other groups:
  - Scouts
  - C.A.R.
  - Church Youth Groups
  - Home School Groups
  - Classrooms
  - 4-H Clubs
  - Sports Teams
- Just need a willing leader and a chapter to sponsor them
- Participate in Community Service and Patriotic Activities
- Learn American History and Promote Love of Country



## Junior American Citizen Values

### *As a Junior American Citizen I will:*

- *Show Courtesy and Respect for others;*
- *Be a Team Player - in my family and home, at school, and in my community;*
- *Take care of myself by making healthy choices in the food I eat and by getting exercise;*
- *Learn about American History and the fundamental principles upon which our nation was founded;*
- *Respect the Flag of the United States of America;*
- *Promote Patriotism;*
- *Listen to the ideas of others and learn to express my own ideas, realizing that sometimes we won't agree, but I will look for common ground;*
- *Find an occupation that is best for me, and learn to do it honestly and well;*
- *Do my best to make the right choices and strengthen my character;*
- *When I am old enough to vote, exercise that right and privilege by being informed of the issues and carefully choosing leaders who will represent "we the people" and our American principles;*

*America depends upon her citizens; every day I will strive to be a Good Junior American Citizen.*



For more information,

please contact:

Name

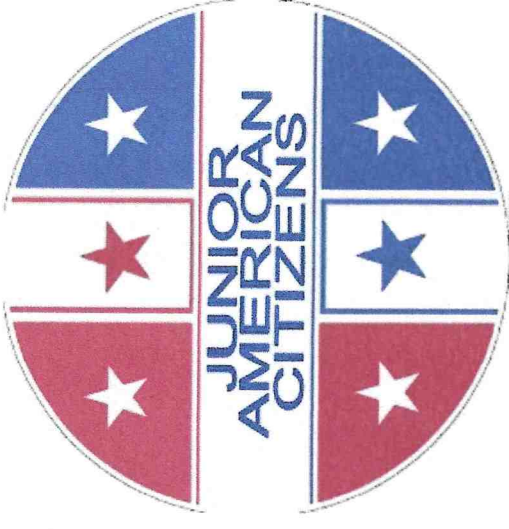
Debra Carlson

Chapter

Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter

Contact Information:

[DebCarDAR@gmail.com](mailto:DebCarDAR@gmail.com)



The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-political, patriotic, women's service organization whose members trace their ancestors to someone who furthered the cause of Independence during the American Revolution. Our mission is education, historic preservation and promoting patriotism.





# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

## JUNIOR AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE

[www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)

Dear Teachers/Leaders/Parents,

Thank you so much for encouraging your children to participate in the Junior American Citizens Contests this year, as we explore **“Celebrating 250 Years of Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness: Happy Birthday, America! 1776–2026.”** Each entry should incorporate the theme except for the Community Service Contest.

You are certainly making a difference in our children’s lives and their appreciation of this great country. What they are learning today will influence the kind of American citizens they will become in the future.

In order to provide opportunities for all children to be winners, we will be judging each grade on four levels. On the JAC entry form is the direction: “Please circle in which group this entry should be judged: Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 or Group 4.” This form stays with each child’s entry throughout the judging process.

**The following is the code that you will circle on the entry form for our judges:**

**Group 1 = Gifted Artist/Writer**

**Group 2 = General**

**Group 3 = Special Needs/Special Effort**

**Group 4 = Non-declared/Unspecified**

**This information will be carefully protected by our judges and no award medal or certificate will indicate a special group. If the group is not selected on the entry form, the entry will be judged under Group 4. Please help us to make sure that no identifying labels of achievement levels is ever given out to the news media.**

Thank you again for your commitment to our wonderful children.

Sincerely,

The JAC Committee  
National Society  
Daughters of the American Revolution



# Confidential Information for Judges and Teachers/Leaders Only!

In order to provide opportunities for all of these children to be winners we will be judging each grade on four levels.

On the JAC entry form below, which stays with each child's entry, is the direction:

Please circle in which group this entry should be judged: Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 or Group 4.

The following is the code that you will need to correctly circle the entry for our judges:

**Group 1 = Gifted Artist/Writer    Group 2 = General    Group 3 = Special Needs/Special Effort    Group 4 = Non-declared Unspecified**  
This information will be carefully protected by our judges and no certificate or award medal will indicate a special group.

If the group is not selected on the entry form, the entry will be judged under Group 4 = Non-declared/Unspecified.

*Please make sure that this group information is not given out to the news media.*

*Please detach this section before copying or distributing the entry forms to protect the privacy of the children.*

## JAC CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant's or group's full name \_\_\_\_\_  
JAC Club ☐ School ☐ Group ☐ Specific name \_\_\_\_\_

*If group entry, please attach a list of students in the group and their grade*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the group in which you would like this entry to be judged:

☐ Group 1    ☐ Group 2    ☐ Group 3    ☐ Group 4

Name of the sponsoring DAR chapter, town and state \_\_\_\_\_  
Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter, Folsom/EI Dorado Hills, CA

Name, address, e-mail address and phone number of DAR chapter contact person  
Debra Carlson

DebCarDAR@gmail.com  
650-477-1775

Document No. JAC-1007 (April 2025) (0425-001-GD)

## JAC CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant's or group's full name \_\_\_\_\_  
JAC Club ☐ School ☐ Group ☐ Specific name \_\_\_\_\_

*If group entry, please attach a list of students in the group and their grade*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the group in which you would like this entry to be judged:

☐ Group 1    ☐ Group 2    ☐ Group 3    ☐ Group 4

Name of the sponsoring DAR chapter, town and state \_\_\_\_\_  
Charlotte Parkhurst Chapter, Folsom/EI Dorado Hills, CA

Name, address, e-mail address and phone number of DAR chapter contact person  
Debra Carlson

DebCarDAR@gmail.com  
650-477-1775

Document No. JAC-1007 (April 2025) (0425-001-GD)