2024-2025 NSCDA CONGRESSIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS FOUNDATION’S

RENOWN CONGRESSIONAL SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, DC

To the Attention of Teaching Professionals:

For many years the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) and its state societies nationwide, including, of course, Pennsylvania, have offered opportunities for high school students to enter the Congressional Essay Contest. Winners attend the Workshops Foundation renown Congressional Seminar held in Washington, D.C. The contest is open to freshmen through seniors who are at least 16 years. The deadline for the contest submission is December 1, 2024.

**Winners receive full scholarships for tuition and support for travel to the five-day Workshops Seminar which is to be held June 23-27, 2025.** While there, the students will participate in a **Mock Congress**, enabling them to collaborate with peers from various backgrounds and views to forge public policy on national and international issues. Attendees receive university campus housing and meals; a per diem for meals purchased off-campus; access to world class museums, government and congressional offices, memorable tours and more. In addition, students can have the opportunity to hone their leadership and public speaking skills.

The essay topic changes annually. For this year’s contest (2024-2025) the topic is:

**Explain whether existing defamation and libel laws are or are not sufficient to prohibit baseless AI generated and distributed content**.

We ask that you inform your students about this opportunity. Included with this is a flier which you can post and below are links to more information about the seminar and contest rules.

<https://nscda.org/student-resources/congressional-essay-contest/> and <https://www.workshops.org/congressional-seminar>. Again, the deadline for submission is December 1, 2024.

Please email Becky O’Connor, NSCDA-PA at: [becky15215@aol.com](mailto:becky15215@aol.com)

Gwen Bryant, NSCDA-PA at [Gwendolen.w.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:Gwendolen.w.bryant@gmail.com) or Mary Bradshaw, NSCDA Congressional Essay Consultant, at [mary\_bradshaw@comcast.net](mailto:mary_bradshaw@comcast.net) for more information or any questions you may have.

While we have had a good response from our Pennsylvania students in past years, we are really trying to encourage more students to enter. Please spread the word! It is truly an amazing experience.

Gwendolen Bryant and Becky O’Connor

NSCDA/PA