

The Society of the Cincinnati
in the State of Virginia

History Essay Contest for College Scholarship

HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

The Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia announces an *essay contest* for any Virginia high school senior who will attend any four-year college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia beginning in the fall of 2013. The Society will award a \$3,000 scholarship to the author of each of the four essays that are judged to be the most outstanding.

ELIGIBILITY

Any graduating Virginia high school senior who has been admitted to a four-year college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia which he or she plans to attend in the fall of 2013, is eligible to enter the essay contest.

ESSAY TOPIC

Each year the essay is about a historical document that played an important role in the establishment of our nation. Past essay topics have include such documents as the Virginia Declaration of Rights, the United States Constitution, and the Virginia Statue for Declaration of Independence. This year's topic will be **The Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom.**

ESSAY PERSPECTIVE

The essay should be written for the benefit of someone who has never studied The Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. The essay should address the ideas in the document that were important to Americans during the latter half of the 18th century, and should explain why these ideas remain important today.

AWARD CRITERIA

A team of judges will select the winners based on the following criteria:

1. **Originality:** freshness and unique application of knowledge of the topic.

2. **Organization:** structure of the essay, arrangement of ideas and information in a logical sequence, and effective transition between key points.
3. **Development:** appropriate use of supporting materials and effective application of historical context.
4. **Style:** grammar, choice and arrangement of words, clarity and overall logic and flow.

CONTEST RULES

Entries should be limited to 1,500 words, excluding citations, and should be typed, with double spacing and one-inch margins, on one side of white letter sized paper (8 ½" by 11"). Each submission should be an original essay written for this competition. All quotations or paraphrases must be appropriately cited in footnotes. Entrants may discuss the development of their essays with peers, parents and/or teachers, but essays must be work of the contestants themselves. No editorial assistance is permitted.

AWARDS

The Society will award four scholarships, of \$3,000 each, to those eligible contestants whose essays are judged, based on the criteria set forth above, to be the most outstanding. The Society will notify award winners by mail or telephone by May 10, 2013, and the awards will be publicly announced presented at a ceremony in the Old Chamber of the House of Delegates at the state Capitol in Richmond in late May or early June 2013.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINE

Two (2) copies of each entry must be mailed with a completed application form to:

Samuel M. Bemiss
4706 Pocahontas Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

Please complete both sides of the application form. Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2013.

APPLICATION

Weedon Memorial High School Essay Contest

Sponsored by

The Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia

The Society of the Cincinnati was formed in May of 1783 on the banks of the Hudson River by George Washington and his officers. They created the Society as a fraternal charitable and patriotic order whose original goals were to pressure the Continental Congress to provide pay that was overdue, and to perpetuate the bonds of friendship they had formed over eight years of fighting together to create their new country.

As these soldiers prepared to become private citizens again they took the name of the Roman patriot, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus. In the fifth century B.C., this original citizen-soldier had put down his plow and picked up his sword to lead the army of Rome to victory over the Barbarians. After the victory, Cincinnatus refused all honors and returned to his farm. Our forebears followed his example as they left their homes, families, businesses and farms and fought for their, and our freedom, and as they established the fundamental principle of civilian rule over the military in their new country.

Today, the Society of the Cincinnati has over 3,600 members, all descendants of the original officers of the continental and French armies and navies, who served under the command of General Washington during the Revolutionary War. The fourteen constituent Societies, those of the thirteen original states and France, form one Society of Friends. The Society of the Cincinnati operates museums and libraries and provides scholarships, grants and awards. Since 1783, we have worked to make all Americans aware of our proud heritage, so that we today, and those of us to come, will continue to preserve and improve our great nation.

Student's Name: _____
First Middle Last Nickname

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Age _____ Male/Female _____

School Division: _____

High School: _____ Principal/Headmaster: _____

School Address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail address: _____

Name of Virginia college/university you will be attending: _____

-CONTEST RULES -

Entries should be limited to 1,500 words, excluding citations, and should be typed, with double spacing and one inch margins, on one side of white letter sized paper (8 1/2" x 11"). Each submission should be an original essay written for this competition. All quotations or paraphrases must be appropriately cited in footnotes. Entrants may discuss the development of their essays with peers, parent and/or teachers, but essays must be work of the contestants themselves. No editorial assistance is permitted.

I understand and have complied with the rules set forth above.

Applicant's Signature Date

Please send the completed application form and two copies of your essay, postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2013 to:

Samuel M. Bemiss
4706 Pocahontas Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226