Indiana Society

Sons of the American Revolution

Middle School Americanism Brochure Contest

**Local Chapter prizes vary, Indiana Society awards a $300 first place cash prize and currently the National cash prizes are: 1st: $200; 2nd: $150; 3rd: $100.**

WHAT IS THE SAR MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST?

The SAR Middle School Contest is to create a tri-fold brochure out of a typical 8 ½” x 11” piece of paper. The brochure must conform to the contest theme which is one the five foundational documents of the United States – which you select.

The brochure will be judged on: Content, Creativity and Correctness. The judging criteria rates highest personally drawn art work and text authored by the student as opposed to cut and paste from books, magazines and the internet. The use of software tools by the student for creating the brochure, and even the art work, is permissible.

The ‘official’ name of the contest, and in whose name the award will be made, is the Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest.

HOW DOES THE CONTEST WORK?

All entries begin at the local Chapter level. The contest is open to public, private, and home schooled students. The participating Chapter should be within the local area of the young person entering the contest.

WHO CAN ENTER?

The SAR Brochure Contest is open to Middle School students, including private, church based and home schooled students in the 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grades, depending upon which year the American Revolution is taught in their educational system. If the American Revolution period of American History is technically not specifically covered during these middle school grades curriculum, an entry will still be accepted for the competition by SAR. A student can only enter once during these middle school grades. One Brochure per student - Not as a group entry.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

* Contact a local SAR Chapter within your local area for deadlines and guidelines.
* Make sure you conform to the guidelines and rules of the contest provided by SAR (below).

HOW WILL I BE JUDGED?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the specific foundational document you selected to be your brochure’s theme. Brochures will be judged at the National level focusing on the following three categories: Content; Creativity & Correctness.

Authorship and Use of Technology: The judging criteria rates highest personally drawn art work and authored text by the student as opposed to cut and paste from books, magazines and off the Internet – though use of material from books, magazines and the Internet does not disqualify an entry, it is just valued less during judging. The use of software tools by the student for creating the brochure, and even the art work, is permissible.

WHAT IS THE THEME?

**The SAR Brochure Contest theme is the same every year – it does not change from year to year. Choose from any of the five (5) Foundational Documents of the United States as the theme for your brochure:**

* Articles of Confederation
* Declaration of Independence
* U.S. Constitution
* Bill of Rights
* Federalist Papers

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES and RULES?

**There are two sets of guidelines and rules:**

* How to Construct the Brochure; and
* How to display and arrange the Content with in the Brochure.

CONTENT INSTRUCTIONS:

**Fold a single 8 ½” x 11” piece of paper into three equal size panels - a Tri-Fold: There will be six panels counting inside and outside. The following is an explanation of what each panel of the brochure should contain:**

* Cover: A title and a picture.
* Inside Cover: Picture to accompany the introduction. May also contain a brief caption or explanation of the picture.
* First inside panel when Cover is opened (while folded): An introduction that presents the basic facts of the event and succinctly states the main idea presented in the interior of the brochure. The introduction should have a title, be written in paragraph form, and clearly communicate the overarching concept of the brochure.
* Two inner panels: A detailed explanation of the ideas of the student around the theme. This written explanation should provide a systematic argument persuading the reader to the point of view of the author; that is, it should be a persuasive essay. The writing should be clear, well organized, and convincing. These panels may also contain pictures and/or artwork that make the brochure more aesthetically appealing. Some questions that may be helpful for the students to consider when completing these panels would include:
  + What are the lessons for our country within this document?
  + How does this document reflect American society and American values?
  + What thoughts do you have regarding the sacrifices made by the participants who drafted this document?
  + What was the outcome of this document and how did this outcome impact American history?
  + What motivated the participants to be a part of creating this document?
  + Could you have been a participant in creating this document?
* Back Panel: The following information must be included in the exact order specified on the back panel of the brochure inside a 2 ½” x 2 ½” framed box. Failure to include this information, and to contain all the information in the 2 ½” x 2 ½” framed box, can result in disqualification from the competition.
  + Student’s Name: First, Middle Initial, and Last
  + School District
  + School Name: school name; or C.A.R. Society; or Scouting Troop
  + Grade in School + School Year: e.g. 2017-18
  + Student’s Teacher’s/Adult Leader’s Name
  + IN: INSSAR (code for state and **local chapter**)

[NOTE: SAR will conceal the above personal information throughout the judging process using a 3”x 3” Post-It® note.]

CONSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIONS:

* Brochure size: The brochures should be made from a single 8 ½” x 11” piece of paper. The paper must be folded according to the construction instructions provided above. The content of the various panels of the brochure should align with the instructions also provided.
* Paper thickness: Any common paper so long as the final product can be folded closed as a tri-fold 8 ½” x 11” brochure.
* Paper color: White paper is most common, but pastel, or color paper is acceptable.
* Artwork: Ideas are the most important element in these brochures and the art is merely a means of conveying those ideas. All artwork on brochures that is personally drawn is highly valued, although artwork created by the young person using software is acceptable. Tracing is permissible and simple drawings that represent complex concepts are encouraged for those who may doubt their artistic skills. Do not paste pictures from magazines, books, or off the Internet, or make extensive use of clip art.
* Pasting: Pasting of personally drawn art work onto a master is permitted. Text: The written text is commonly hand printed.
* Typed text sections (even pasted on) are also permitted. [CAUTION: This must be original text written by the student – not clipped from magazines, books or taken off the internet.]
* Content: Ideally: The brochure entry adheres to guidelines; contains ideal mix of historical fact and interpretation; is well organized and logical; easy to follow, and the pictures or illustrations add to understanding.
* Moreover: The brochures must conform to the theme: One of the Nation’s Five Foundational Documents in the American Revolutionary: 1. Articles of Confederation; 2. Declaration of Independence; 3. Constitution; 4. Federalist Papers; 5. Bill of Rights.
* Creativity: The brochure entry adheres to guidelines, prose includes metaphors, similes, and other appropriate tools and demonstrates creativity, wit, and insight into the topic; pictures depict the topic creatively and imaginatively; and the brochure contains additional creative touches that add to the aesthetic appeal. The extent the young author addresses 1 or more of the 6 thought provoking questions in the “2 inner panels” in the Content Instructions will also be considered.