



Sons of the American Revolution
Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Grant
Application and Instructions
NEW RULES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2025-2026 CONTEST
YEAR (Revised August 2025)

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites all American history teachers, whose approved curriculum teaches students about the American revolution era from 1750 to 1800, to apply for the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Grant. The grant is open to all American history teachers at the middle or high school levels at a recognized public, private, or parochial institution. A teacher who teaches at a home school is not eligible. A teacher who is selected as a winner at a chapter level will then be submitted to compete for the state contest and the winner of the state contest will be a finalist for the national grant. The grant consists of two separate contests designed to select a teacher at the middle school and high school level. The national winner at each level will be entitled to the benefits described below.

The American History Teacher Grant recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution. The grant winner will receive a professional educational opportunity at a national seminar. They are then expected to share what they have learned with their colleagues and to bring back to their classroom a heightened level of creativity and enthusiasm for the American Revolutionary era.

Teacher candidates interested in entering the local SAR Chapter contest must complete the required application and submit a written essay of 500-1000 words describing any extraordinary teaching techniques or innovative projects utilized by the teacher to teach the American Revolution. The applicant should define why they think teaching the American Revolution is important. The contest aims at identifying a teacher who is actively teaching, has taught for at least three years, and who is in the early or middle stages of his or her career, therefore having several years of productive classroom teaching remaining. The grant is therefore not intended as an honor to a deserving teacher who is nearing retirement and thus not able to impart the knowledge gained at attendance at a seminar to many future students or colleagues. It is recognized that school districts may have different job titles for teachers of American history, such as social studies teachers. The actual job title of the teacher is not important so long as the teacher has as their primary duty the teaching of American history. Teachers who teach music, physical education, JROTC, or other subjects as their primary subject are not eligible. The essay should also discuss why the teacher wants to attend the educational seminar and how the teacher would use what is learned at the seminar in the future.

One signed letter of recommendation is required. All application materials must be submitted electronically. Applications must be submitted to a local chapter. Where no local chapter is present, an application may be submitted to a State Society. Use this link to find your nearest chapter <https://www.sar.org/find-your-contact/> Also, where the application is handwritten, the writing must be legible, particularly phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The First-place winners will receive: Attendance at a teacher workshop or seminar on the American Revolution. \$3,000 to pay for tuition and travel expenses to attend one of the following teacher seminars: the Freedoms Foundation Summer Teacher Graduate Workshop at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; the Colonial Williamsburg Summer Teacher Workshop in Williamsburg, Virginia; or the SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution. Other seminars may be attended provided the SAR provides prior approval in writing. The tuition for the seminar will be considered a scholarship and will be paid directly to the seminar.

Winners must discuss and receive preapproval of travel plans from the SAR prior to incurring expenses. Reasonable travel expenses may include airfare or mileage in the case of a winner driving a personal vehicle, and room and board where it is not provided by the seminar. Reasonable travel expenses directly related to attendance at a seminar will be paid by the SAR when receipts are provided for reimbursement. Because the educational benefit is \$3,000 it is possible that a winner may attend more than one seminar but the total scholarship for tuition, and reimbursement for expenses may not exceed \$3,000. The winner must complete all seminars within 24 months after the winner is announced, or the grant is forfeited. Within thirty days of attending a seminar, a written report or video of not less than 500 words or 5-minute video discussing the benefits of the grant and how the seminar has improved their ability to teach the American Revolution is due to the SAR. The report may be shared with the SAR membership including posting it on the website. A cash prize of \$1,000 for their personal and unrestricted use will also be awarded. The cash prize is taxable, and an IRS Form 1099 will be issued. One past winner each year may be invited by the National Committee Chairman to attend the SAR National Congress to speak at the Youth Awards Luncheon.

Attendance at an American Revolution teacher seminar is a condition to receiving any other awards provided to a winner. Once the seminar is completed the winner will receive the \$1,000 cash prize.

There will be a second and third place winner in each category. The second-place winner receives a \$1000 cash prize, and the third-place winner receives a \$500 cash prize. Since this is taxable an IRS Form 1099, will be issued.

In any contest year the SAR reserves the right not to select a winner for a particular school level if, in the opinion of the judges, the applicants do not meet the selection criteria.

Completed applications should be submitted to a local SAR Chapter/State and the Chapter winners submitted to the State Society. Each State Society may determine its own deadlines.

Application Directions:

1) American History Teacher Grant applicants must complete and include the following information and attach it with the application form:

a) An essay of 500-1000 words, describing any extraordinary teaching techniques or innovative projects utilized by the teacher to teach the American Revolution. The applicant should define why they think teaching the American Revolution is important. The essay should also discuss why the applicant wants to attend the Freedoms Foundation, Colonial Williamsburg, or the SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution, and how the teacher would use what is learned at this summer workshop in future classes.

b) Include a signed letter of recommendation stating why the applicant is qualified for this grant. Additionally, other letters of recommendation from those who have firsthand knowledge of the applicant's teaching techniques may also be submitted.

c) Applicants will submit a digital photograph with their application, which may be used by the SAR to publicize the contest winner.

d) A signed and dated "Release & Discharge of Responsibility Form" must be submitted with the application.

2) Applicants in this contest agree that the interpretation of the rules and decisions by the judges and the SAR shall govern without exception.

3) Applicants agree that they will submit a report of their attendance (either written or in video format) at a workshop/seminar to the SAR no later than 30 days following, the completion, discussing their experience, how they will utilize what they learned in their classroom, and with colleagues. The winning applicant also agrees he or she will be available, schedule permitting, to attend an annual SAR Congress or Leadership Meeting to report on his or her experience. It is understood that if the SAR extends an invitation to the winner to attend, that the winner's reasonable travel and lodging expenses will be paid by SAR, upon preapproval subject to the reimbursement guidelines of this grant.

4) This grant is specifically for a program in the American Revolution and not redeemable for its monetary value. If the grant winner is unable to attend an educational seminar during the year in which the grant is presented, the winner may attend in a subsequent year. The winner must attend a seminar within 24 months after the grant is announced, or the grant will be forfeited.

5) All winners will be sent a form explaining the expense reimbursement rules along with an expense claim form. It will also include information about contacting the approved seminars.

6) Any First-place winner is not eligible to participate in subsequent contests. Other applicants may continue to apply for subsequent contests.

The essays will be judged on these criteria:

- 1. Unique or innovative approach (35%)
- 2. Student excitement (15%)
- 3. Collaboration (10%)
- 4. Goal for attending the conference. (20%)
- 5. Number of years teaching. (20%)

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Application Form

I am applying for the American History Teacher Grant for the following school level: (Only one level may be checked)

☐ **Middle School**

☐ **High School**

Professional Information

How many years have you taught American history? How many more years do you anticipate teaching American history?
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Please list any higher education degrees attained (include institutions, year degree granted, and degree attained):

Do you have any special certifications?

Current Teaching Assignment

Present School Position:

Grade Level(s) Taught:

School Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

School District:

Application Endorsement

Release & Discharge of Responsibility Form

I, _____ have been nominated by the SAR for the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Grant.

Should I be selected as the winner, I hereby release and discharge the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, its trustees, officers, other officials and selection committee members from any and all, whatsoever and howsoever arising, liability, damage, injury, and/or responsibility by reason of my participation in the program.

The consideration for the "Release & Discharge of Liability" is said Society providing the opportunity to compete for an grant.

I agree to provide my Social Security Number upon request for the purpose of reporting of Tax Form 1099.

I agree to physically sign this document.

I agree to allow the SAR (National, State, and Chapter levels) to publicize my name as a winner including news releases, on SAR websites, and social media. I also agree to allow the SAR to put my name, application essay, and the essay or video submitted after completion of the seminar through the media listed above.

I agree that this "Release & Discharge of Liability" will cover and include liability under the same terms and conditions above stated for all aspects of this competition.

Signature of Applicant: Date:

SAR Member Sponsor: Date:

SAR National Number:

SAR Member Telephone Number:

SAR Member Email Address:

Number: SAR Member Email Address: