Sons of the American Revolution
Battle Born Patriots Chapter

Founded 1910

2026 Liberty Award
ESSAY TOPIC AND RULES

The Battle Born Patriots Chapter, Sons of The American Revolution, is proud to announce the 2026 Liberty Awards. In 2026, a Liberty Award will be presented for the winning essay. The award is cash in the amount of $1,500. These award will be presented to the author of the essay that best responds to the Essay Topic. The winning essay will demonstrate a mastery of the historical facts and a thoughtful understanding of ideals that informed the American Revolution and our nation's founding documents.

ESSAY TOPIC: The essay will answer the following question:

- **What responsibilities do citizens have in protecting the freedoms described in the Declaration of Independence?**

LIBERTY AWARD RULES:

1. **Please follow these rules exactly. Essays that do not conform to the rules will be immediately disqualified.**
2. Eligible applicants are high school juniors and seniors, attending public, private or home schools in Washoe, Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey counties.
3. Contest entries must be submitted as PDF files attached to an email.
4. The essay must have four parts: 1) title page, 2) essay pages, 3) bibliography or works cited, and 4) applicant's biography. The title page, bibliography, and applicant's biography must be listed on separate pages and **no reference** to the applicant's name or information can be part of the essay pages or bibliography.
   A) Title Page – The title page must include the following:

1) Title of the Essay.
2) Applicant's name, grade, address, phone number & email.
3) Applicant's high school's name, address & phone number.
4) Statement on how applicant learned about the contest (if from the Internet, include the URL of the website).

B) Essay Pages – The essay must:

1) Be a minimum of 800 and a maximum of 1,200 words (excluding title page, footnotes, bibliography, page and biography).
2) First page must include the title.
3) No applicant information is on the essay pages.
4) 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced.
5) Use 8 ½ in. by 11 in. page format with 1in. margins on all sides.
6) Essay pages are numbered sequentially, starting with "1".
7) No graphics or photos are allowed.

C) Bibliography pages – The bibliography must:

1) Citations in the essay and references in the bibliography must be in accordance with a widely used, publicly available citation system (Examples include the Chicago Manual of Style, the MLA Manual of Style, & the MHRA Style Guide).
2) The bibliography must specify the system used.
3) No applicant information is in the bibliography.
4) Minimum of 5 references, 3 of which must be published works (encyclopedias or internet sources are acceptable but not considered part of the 3 published works).

D) Biography page - The biography must:

1) Limited to one page.
2) Includes academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities and plans for college.

5. Essays which meet the criteria above will be accepted and judged equally according to the following criteria (total points = 100):

A) Originality & Understanding—40 points
B) Historical accuracy—35 points.
C) Organization—10 points.
D) Documentation—10 points.

E) Grammar and spelling—5 points.

6. Essay Judging:
   A) All essays will be judged by a panel of volunteers appointed by the Liberty Award Committee of the Battle Born Patriots (BBP) Chapter of the S.A.R.
   B) The assessment, evaluation, and ranking /placement of all essays by this Panel is final.

7. Submission Deadline Date:
   The essay must be **SENT NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON NOVEMBER 6, 2026**. Essays must be submitted as a PDF file attached to an email.

8. **Email submissions must be transmitted to:** **BattleBorn.jim@outlook.com**

9. Winner Announcement Date: The essays will be evaluated and the Winning essays will be announced on November 21, 2026.

10. The Liberty Award presentation will take place at The Liberty Awards Banquet on Saturday, November 21, 2026.

A.I. NOT ALLOWED:
The essay writing requirements for the award have been set forth, however a further appraisal by the award's panel of volunteer evaluators may require a personal interview with the award finalist to inquire whether the views and opinions given in their essay are their own, and that the essay actually reflects their personal thoughts and beliefs and personal experiences that have influenced the essay. This also affords the opportunity for the Panel to determine, as a precaution, whether non-original sources or Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) have comprised a major body of the applicant's essay.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
For questions or information regarding this essay rules and award presentation, please contact:

David Hess, BBP Chapter President Emeritus, at: hessdf@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in the Battle Born Patriots Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, 2026 Liberty Scholarship Award, we look forward to hearing from you.

WHO IS THE BATTLE BORN PATRIOTS CHAPTER, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION?
Founded in 1910, the Battle Born Patriots Chapter, Nevada Society, Sons of the American Revolution is a proud member of a national organization that honors our Revolutionary War

patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating, and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

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