

Society of Mayflower Descendants of SC (SMDSC)
2019 Essay Contest Announcement
(updated Jun 26th, 2019)

2019 Contest Theme: Research an impact of the Mayflower Compact and/or early Plymouth Colony Laws and activities on the United States today.

Divisions and awards: Divisions (grade during Spring 2019):

Elementary	3 rd - 5 th grade	\$500
Middle School	6 th - 8 th grade	\$500
High School	9 th - 12 th grade	\$1000
College/Continuing Ed	Age limits: 18-24 by end of calendar year	\$1000

Rules¹ for All Divisions:

Qualified contest participants:

- Junior members of the SMDSC up to age 24 or
- Relatives up to age 24 sponsored by a SMDSC member who have a direct lineage relationship to a Mayflower passenger, including lineage separate from the sponsoring member.
- Individuals may participate each year of age eligibility, regardless of whether they have received awards in the past.

Format:² High School and College/Continuing Ed Divisions will accept historical essays 1,500 - 2,500 words. For the Elementary and Middle School Divisions, essays should be 300 - 1000 words. This includes student-composed text as well as quotes from primary or secondary sources. The word limit does not apply to the bibliography. All sections must be 8.5 x 11-inch pages with 1-inch margins on all sides, double-spaced, and in 12-point font. Your entry must include the following written material in the order presented below:

1. A title page;
2. A **history essay**;
3. An annotated bibliography.

Title Page: A title page is required as the first page. Your title page must include the

1. title of your entry,
2. your name,
3. your Mayflower passenger ancestor(s),
4. your Junior Membership number or the SMDSC Member's number who is sponsoring you,
5. the contest division, and
6. word count of your essay
7. contact Info: mailing address, phone number, email address
8. parent or guardian name, if under 18 years old.

Citations:³ All references in the bibliography should be referenced in the essay as footnotes or endnotes. Citations are used to credit the sources of specific ideas as well as direct quotations. Failure to credit sources is plagiarism and will result in disqualification. Style for citations and bibliographic references should follow the principles in a recent edition of one of the following style guides.

- Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*
- Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Annotated Bibliography:³ An annotated bibliography is required. List all sources that contributed to the development of your essay, i.e., sources that provided usable information or new perspectives in preparing your entry. Bundle materials from the same collection in a single citation.

The annotations for each source must explain how you used the source, how it helped you understand your topic, and whether it is a primary or secondary source. Sources from websites must be credible and indicate the type of resource (for instance, primary source from a vital records online database should indicate whether it is an image of an original document or a transcript of an original document).

Submission rules: Essays may be submitted in two different ways:

- Electronic submission to the Assistant of Education as an attached PDF by **noon** of August 6th, 2019.
- Printed and mailed to the Assistant of Education with a postmark no later than August 6th, 2019.

Contact for submissions and questions:

Kristen French, SMDSC Assistant of Education
 frenchkl@gmail.com
 4923 France Avenue
 North Charleston, SC 29405
 843-478-3736

Participants and their parents/guardians agree to abide by the following:

By submitting an essay, the entrant and their parents agree to be bound by all SMDSC policies governing the essay contest and also agree that all decisions with regard to winners and disqualifications made by SMDSC shall be final and binding. They also agree to use the award to further the educational goals of the applicant. We reserve the right to reject any or all submissions.

Essays must be the entrant's own original work. Parents and teachers may not write or do research for the applicant but may provide assistance in learning how to do research. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.

The applicant must submit all the required documents at the same time. Receipt of submissions will be sent to applicants within 48 hours of receipt. Awards will be announced 8 weeks after the submission deadline, after all the judging is completed. Winning essays may be published in the Fall edition of the *Palmetto Log*, at the discretion of the Committee. Retain a copy of all documents as submissions will not be returned.

¹ Note: some rules for the essay contest have changed this year to bring us into alignment with National History Day rules.

² Contest Rule Book: Section IV. Individual Category Rules A. Paper, Rules A1-A3 with modifications, pp 20-21, Fig 3, Sample Paper Page, p 22, National History Day, College Park, MD.

³ Contest Rule Book: Section III. Rules for All Categories C. Contest Participation, Rules 16, 18, & 19, National History Day, College Park, MD.

Contest Rule Book link: https://www.nhd.org/sites/default/files/Contest-Rule-Book_2.pdf, accessed February 17, 2019.

SIDEBAR

[National History Day \(https://www.nhd.org/\)](https://www.nhd.org/) (NHD) is a nationwide contest with state and local contests. Students create history research projects based on the annual theme, and they compete to go to state or national contests. Projects can include papers, performances, poster presentations, building a website, or audio-visual presentations. The competition is rigorous, requiring use of primary and secondary sources, and the same principles apply for students competing from 6th to 12th grade. By participating in NHD prior to writing an essay for the SMDSC Essay contest in future years, students will have had more preparation and experience in writing a well-researched history essay.

For the 2019 SMDSC Essay Contest, the rules have changed to be more aligned with the requirements of NHD paper submissions. The NHD Rulebook is available for reference online (https://www.nhd.org/sites/default/files/Contest-Rule-Book_2.pdf) or by request to the SMDSC Assistant for Education, but use of the NHD Rulebook is not necessary to comply with the SMDSC Essay Contest Rules.