

2025-2026 Junior American Citizens (JAC) Contest Theme
Celebrating 250 Years of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: Happy Birthday, America!

GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES



The **JAC CONTESTS** are open to all students in grades pre-school through 12.

- Affiliation with DAR is not required.
- Preschool and kindergarten students may participate only in the banner and group community service project contests.
- Students may enter the Community Service Contest (Individual or Group) plus one additional entry into either Art or Creative Expression.

The **ART CONTEST** includes five categories. **See separate document for specifics of each category.**

1. poster
 2. banner
 3. stamp
 4. photographic essay
 5. digital art
- A winner will be selected in each grade level and category.
 - Students compete as individuals only in poster, stamp, digital art, and photo essay; in the banner category only groups may enter, groups being defined as three to five students.
 - Preschool and kindergarten students may compete in the banner category only.
 - The artwork may be submitted using any form of drawing or painting.
 - The artwork does not have to have the actual theme on the artwork but would follow the theme.

The **CREATIVE EXPRESSION CONTEST** includes three categories:



1. poetry
 2. short story
 3. graphic novel/comic
- Students compete as individuals only-group entries are not allowed.
 - Preschool and kindergarten students may not compete in the Creative Expression Contest.
 - The graphic novel/comic does not have to have the actual theme on the novel but should follow the theme.

The **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT** may be an individual or group entry for students in grades 1-12. Preschool and kindergarten students may compete as a group only. A group must be comprised of three (3) or more students. Groups may be mixed ages.

JUDGING AND AWARDS:

- Sponsoring chapters will select one winner from each category and grade level.
- Winning entries at the chapter level will be forwarded to the state for judging, state winners will be forwarded to the division for judging, and finally, division winners will be forwarded for national judging. Certificates will be presented to the winners at each level.
- At the national level, first, second, and third places and Honorable Mention certificates will be presented. In the art and creative expression categories, each first, second, and third place winner will also receive an award medal. In the Community Service category only, 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and Honorable Mention groups will be awarded a group certificate suitable for framing and a certificate for each participant—no medals.

FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DELIVER ENTRIES, contact us at fortcasparchapter@wydar.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 20, 2025