



# National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

*Pamela Rouse Wright, President General*

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## JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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**Sarah Grace Brooks, National Junior Membership Committee Chair**

**Rebecca Armstrong & Malinda Williams, National Co- Vice Chair, HPMF Classroom Grants**

### **All About the 2025 Spring Junior Membership Classroom Grant Award Program**

#### ***Purpose: Why Classroom Grants?***

- Since its inception, the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund has traditionally supported the DAR's mission of Education. The history of the fund has shown a desire by Juniors to help as many students as possible.
- Supporting classrooms in each state allows for states and Juniors to see the impact of our fundraising, no matter their proximity to a DAR supported school.
- Two grants are available for each state and the District of Columbia.
- Applicants must be a classroom teacher for grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Must be sponsored by a local DAR chapter and complete the grant award application.
- Proposed projects must directly benefit students in the classroom. Funds may be used for supplies and educational resources, but the applicant must detail how these items help to further the educational goals of the DAR. Grants must directly impact students and may not be used for continuing education/workshops for the teacher.

#### ***Program Administration: How do teachers apply for the grant? How does a state determine their winner?***

- Application period will begin January 15, 2025.
- Once the application period has ended (March 15, 2025), the chapter will submit their applicant to the State Chair. At the state level, a panel of three judges will review the applications for their state and determine a Winner and Runner-Up.
- The panel of judges will consist of the State Junior Membership Chair, a Junior Member, and a DAR member who is an educator.
  - The DAR member who is an educator may also be a Junior member.
  - The educator does not have to be a current teacher; she may be retired or currently working in a different field.
- The State Chair will submit her state's Winner and Runner-Up to the National Vice Co-Chairs of Junior Membership Classroom Grants by the designated date through the Junior Membership Classroom Grants portal, **no later than April 1, 2025**, at <https://NSDARJM.formstack.com/forms/grantspring25>
- The National Vice Co-Chairs will certify each state's winner(s).
- Should a state not submit a grant award Winner (or Runner-Up), the National Chair or Vice Co-Chairs may award that state's grant(s) to another state. Each state will receive at least two grants but can be awarded additional grants based on the number of applications. If applicable, additional grants will be given to states within the same division as a state not submitting a grant award Winner/Runner-Up.
- Grant Award Winners will be announced at through email communication and the DOC.
- Awards will be distributed **no later than August 2025**.

- Only one grant may be awarded to the same applicant per administration.

### ***Junior Membership Classroom Grant Timeline:***

- **January 15, 2025:** Applications sent to State Junior Membership Chairs to forward to chapters.
- **January 15 through March 15, 2025:** Application process open to classroom teachers.
- **April 1, 2025:** Applications due from the chapter to the State Junior Membership Chair.
- **May 1, 2025:** Deadline for submitting the state winner and runner-up to the Junior Membership Classroom Grants portal (Links on Junior Membership Committee National Webpage and emailed to State Chairs)
- **June 2025:** Grant winners announced at Continental Congress.
- **August 2025:** Awards will be mailed to teachers.

### ***How to distribute information:***

- Each applicant should receive the application and information sheet.
- Distribute to chapters in your state via email, snail mail, social media.
- Get the word out however you can and as quickly as possible.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About the Junior Membership Classroom Grants:***

### **How does this program impact Junior Membership commitment to the DAR Schools?**

It doesn't! The Junior Membership Committee and Helen Pouch Memorial Fund have an annual commitment to the DAR Schools. Priority for fundraising is given to the DAR Schools.

### **How does this program affect the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund National Project?**

It doesn't! After our commitment to the DAR Schools, the Junior Membership Committee fulfills our obligation to the adopted National Project for that year prior to accepting grant award applications.

### **Should a state or chapter do anything to recognize Classroom Grant winners?**

Of course! Consider making a ceremonial check presentation to the winners at your state's fall meeting or holding a special ceremony at the recipients' classrooms or at a meeting of the sponsoring DAR chapters. You could also recognize your winners during your State Conference in the spring and allow the teachers to speak about the impact the grant has had on their classroom. Write an article about the project for your state's newsletters. Submit details to the National Junior Membership newsletter.

### **Who is considered a classroom teacher?**

A classroom teacher is a teacher in a public or private school system. They can teach a core subject or other group-setting classes in grades K-12. Individual programs like speech or occupational therapy are not eligible. The teacher holds a contract for the following school year and can have the application endorsed by a principal, headmaster, or superintendent to verify employment. Home school teachers are not considered classroom teachers. The goal of the classroom grant program is to do the greatest good for the greatest number of students.

### **Can a non-regular education teacher apply if they meet the definition of a classroom teacher?**

Special education services vary from state to state, and it must be clear that the teacher is teaching

a classroom of students and not providing pull-out service.

- An example of a classroom would be: A reading class being taught to a group of students by the special education teacher.
- An example of pull-out service (not eligible) would be: a special education teacher working with students on reading for a class that is being taught by another teacher.

**Can a classroom grant be used by the school lunch program?**

No, grant funds must be used for education-setting activities in a classroom.

**Can a classroom grant be used by a classroom teacher to invite a guest expert performer/lecturer to come and teach classes in a classroom as a way to extending the learning experience of students?**

Yes, this fits the definition of the focus on student learning of the grant program. This activity has a direct benefit to the students' learning.

**Can a classroom grant be used by a classroom teacher to take students on an out of school field trip to cover the cost of entry of students to a learning venue?**

Yes, this is an activity that is focused on education to help expand the classroom learning experience. This activity has a direct benefit to the students' learning.

**Can a classroom grant be used by a classroom teacher to develop/deliver online curriculum?**

Yes, virtual learning (as authorized by the respective school district) is an accepted method of bringing the teacher to the virtual classroom. This activity has a direct benefit to the students' learning.

**Can a DAR member apply for a grant?**

Yes! DAR members who meet the eligibility requirements of classroom teachers may apply for the grant. They should not list their DAR membership as part of their application, as no preference should be given to DAR members when reviewing the applications and grants should be awarded based on the merits of the application alone.

**Can my chapter endorse more than one applicant?**

No, a chapter may only endorse one application per year. The goal of this grant program is to impact as many children in as many communities as possible. Limiting each chapter to sponsoring just one application per year helps ensure that multiple communities in each state will benefit from these grants. In addition, due to the large number of chapters in some states, and the limited time available to the state judges, limits must be placed to ensure these judges aren't overwhelmed with applications.