



National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

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All About the 2020 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 12th 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 process will begin in February each year, once funding availability has been determined.
- Once the application period has ended, a panel of three judges will review the applications for their state and determine two Winners and one 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 submits her state's winners and runner-up to the National Vice Chair of Junior Membership Classroom Grants by the designated date.
- The National Vice Chair will certify each state's winners.
- Should a state not submit a grant award winner, the National Chair or Vice Chair may award that state's grant to the runner-up of another state. No more than three grants will be issued to one state if a runner-up is awarded.
- Preference will be given to states within the same division as a state not submitting a grant award winner(s).
- Grant Award Winners will be announced at Continental Congress.
- Awards will be distributed in August.
- The grant is a one-time award and recipients are not eligible to re-apply in future years.

Junior Membership Classroom Grant Timeline:

- **February 2020:** Applications sent to State Junior Membership Chairs to then forward to chapters.
- **February 15 through April 1, 2020:** Application window open to classroom teachers.
- **May 15, 2020:** Deadline for submitting the state winner and runner-up to the National Junior Membership Chair.
- **June 2020:** Grant winners announced at Continental Congress.
- **No later than August 31, 2020:** Awards mailed to teacher.
- **December 31, 2020** (or upon completion of the project): Report of project sent the National Vice Chair.

How to distribute information:

- Distribute to chapters in your state via email, snail mail, social media.
- Each applicant should receive the application and information sheet.
- 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 affect our 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 will always be 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 will fulfill our obligation to the adopted National Project for that year prior to accepting grant award applications.

Should we do anything to recognize our grant award 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 meetings 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, *The Beacon*.

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 great 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 that is why it needs to 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 is 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 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.

Why can't my chapter endorse more than one applicant?

Two grants are available per state. Some states have hundreds of chapters. Each application is reviewed by a panel of volunteer judges. Limits must be placed to ensure these judges aren't overwhelmed with applications. Also, 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.