

# TEXAS SOCIETY SAR

## Oration Contest Guidelines

(Updated September 28, 2008)

### **A. Introduction:**

The information outlined below is intended to assist our TXSSAR members, chapter presidents, regional oration chairpersons and youth committee members on how to proceed, conduct an Oration Contest. All necessary registration, judging forms, guidelines and rule are found by going to the National SAR Website;  
<http://www.sar.org/youth/rumbaugh.html>

- A. A contestant can choose their own subject centered on either; pre, during or post revolutionary war subject material.
- B. Open to 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- C. Speech must be at least 5 minutes but no longer than 6 minutes.

### **B. There are 4 basic phases to the Orations Contest:**

1. First, there is a contest conducted at the Chapter level. A winner is selected on the judging criteria as set forth by the SAR National requirements on their web site. This contest is conducted anytime beginning from October 1 through December 31<sup>st</sup>. It is suggested this contest be conducted on a Sunday afternoon at a library, church or location, which can be available to you. The Oration leader should try to coordinate a date and time, with the local school (public, private, religious or home school representative) which best work for you and for THEM. The chapter should consider their schedule and work around their needs. Definitely, a better response for possible candidates will come forth. Registration forms are available on the National SAR web site. The chapter can establish their own reward, i.e. cash, or bond or other form of your choice.
2. Second, there is a Regional Contest arranged by the Regional Chairman representing your chapter along with other possible chapters in your region, please refer to the attachment for list of regions. The Regional Chair sets up this contest location and arrangements for judges and space. This contest is conducted beginning January 5th through February 28<sup>th</sup>. The judging rules, which are the same and necessary forms, are located on the National SAR web site. The Regional Chair can work with the appropriate chapters in the Region to establish a form of reward and expenses for travel, if necessary.
3. Third, there is the Texas State Contest held usually during the month of March at the State Convention on a Saturday during the noon luncheon. The awards and expense policy provided by the State is listed below. The first place winner goes to National. The Texas Society of the War of 1812 uses the second place winner as their first place winner with a designated cash award.
4. Fourth, the final contest conducted by the National SAR is held at the Annual Congress, which generally takes place the first week in July. The location will vary from year to year.

**C. The following is the National SAR web site location for all the necessary registration forms, judging forms with guidelines, purpose for the Oration Contest, awards, etc:**

- <http://www.sar.org/youth/rumbaugh.html>

Summary of National SAR Oration prizes

- |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. 1 <sup>st</sup> Place: | \$3,000 |
| 2. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place: | \$2,000 |
| 3. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place: | \$1,000 |
| 4. All Finalists:         | \$300   |
| 5. All other contestants: | \$200   |

**D. Helpful Suggestions in locating viable Contestants:**

1. Contact the local school Speech Teachers directly. Principals are too busy.
2. Contact, not only public schools as well, but the private, religious and home schools.
3. We have found sometimes the churches know of some their members who are home schooling.
4. Find out what day, week works best for them and the students to hold you Chapter Contest. There are many activities surrounding the students; UIL, State and Local functions, try to stay clear of those days or weekends.
5. Sometimes weekends, especially Sunday, will better than a weekday. Even though you might want to do the competition the night of your normal meeting, it might not be workable for the student.
6. Hold the competition at a local library, church or civic location, must libraries have a small and larger conference room.
7. Some schools (public, private or religious) will provide a room.
8. Check with your local newspaper, they will have some contacts within the various types of school in your area. Sometimes they also have the contact person.
9. Your local DAR might also have contacts in the schools, check with them.

**E. Statement of Commitment:**

This form is used to secure the commitment that the chapter-winning contestant will move forward and compete, in the Texas Regional and State Contest as well as the National SAR contest. We had occasion where a chapter contestant has changed their mind after winning due to more attractive events. This is unfair to the follow-up second place contestant.

“We welcome you, your family and your teacher to be part of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Rumbaugh Oration Contest. Through this competition, the SAR has provided a program by which students can enter an Oratorical Contest for the benefit of obtaining scholarship awards. The event begins at the Chapter (local) level and will evolve through a Regional Contest, a State Contest and a final contest at the National Level.

In order to conduct a contest of this type, it is necessary for the participant to commit to and be able to follow through with the chapter, the regional, the state and eventual participation at the National level. We ask that you recognize a posture of fairness in accepting the responsibility of this commitment. We asked that you consider the rights of the other contestants who are entering the contest with the anticipation of being able to win. A last minute withdrawal is not fair to the other contestants, the local chapter and to the TXSSAR. Should the winning contestant withdraw for any reason from the competition, any awards or prizes received are required to be returned”.

\_\_\_\_\_  
I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge this commitment      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian      Date

**F. Guidelines for Conduction an Oratation Contests including TXSSAR policy, travel and awards:**

Please contact chapters in your region as rapidly as possible for promoting this coming year's competition. The following are suggested deadlines in order to meet the requirements for our State competition.

Chapter Competition	October 1 <sup>st</sup> through December 15, 2008 (Too much school activity after the 15 <sup>th</sup> ) (Ask the local contacts what is best for them)
Regional Competition	January 2 <sup>nd</sup> through February 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 (Ask the local chapter contacts what is best for them)
State Competition	Saturday, March 21st, 2009 TXSSAR 114 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Nacogdoches, TX
National Competition	Saturday-Sunday, July 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 119 <sup>th</sup> NSSAR Annual Congress Atlanta, Georgia

Notes/Suggestions:

1. By asking your local contacts "what is best for them", will provide an opportunity for a better turn out of students for the contests.
2. Some regions might have their competition later than the above date, that just might happen; however, please be aware that students will be competing in University Interscholastic Events (UIL) during January and February.
3. Regional Chairmen **must** have their entries certified to the State Chairman by **March 10th, 2008**.
4. Local chapters, belonging to a given Region, are encouraged to financially support the Regional Contestant to the State Annual Meeting.

**Travel Expenses:**

Reimbursement for any of these expenses may be received from the State Treasurer., on the presentation of receipts. The State will pay for one hotel room if over 100 miles. Mileage for travel by car is .20c per mile each way for a round trip, if over 100 miles one-way. Contestants living in the immediate area of the Annual meeting will receive no travel expenses or have a need for a hotel reservation.

**The Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution will award these scholarships at its Annual Meeting in March 19-22, 2009:**

- A. For 1<sup>st</sup> place --- \$1,000. The winner of the contest will be the Robert F. Ritchie Winner of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oratation Contest. In addition, will receive an Olympic Size Medal.

- B. For 2<sup>nd</sup> place --- \$200 and a Certificate (Will be supplemented by a \$500 cash award from the War of 1812 Society)
- C. For all others --- \$100 each and a Certificate

Students will be given a letter of commitment from the TXSSAR in the appropriate amount. When the student enrolls in a community or senior college or university, the student presents the letter to the financial aid office. The financial aid office will contact the TXSSAR and the money in the approved amount will be sent directly to that institution as credit against the student's tuition account. The student will **not** receive a check at the convention. PLEASE INSURE THAT THE WINNER IN YOUR REGION IS AWARE OF THIS SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING.

These scholarship funds and travel funds are paid from the TXSSAR Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund.

**The State Society will provide the following for the State winner to compete at the 119<sup>th</sup> NSSAR Annual Congress in July 4 through the 8, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The winner will receive reimbursement for his expenses to travel to and from their location, including a room at the convention hotel of up to a maximum of \$1,000 upon presentation of receipts to the State Treasurer.

The National SAR scholarship awards are listing on the National SAR web site;

- <http://www.sar.org/youth/rumbaugh.html>

**G. Chapter assigned to the Six Regions including the Regional Chairpersons:**

**Consolidated Table of Regions in TXSSAR Rumbaugh Oration Contest Purposes**

<b>Region 1</b>	<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Region 6</b>
Bill Harper 806-353-2858	Ray Walls. 830-537-3299	Clyde McMurray 940-872-4852	Drake Peddie 972-669-2263	Interim; Frederick L. Preston 936-634-6086	James E. Mitchell 281-361-3112
<u>Towns/Chapters</u>	<u>Towns/Chapters</u>	<u>Towns/Chapters</u>	<u>Towns/Chapters</u>	<u>Towns/Chapters</u>	<u>Towns/Chapters</u>
Abilene/Big Country	Brownsville/ Liberty	Arlington/ Arlington	Athens/ Athens	Austin/ Patrick Henry	Baytown/MAJ White
Amarillo/ Panhandle-Plains	Fredericksburg/ Bluebonnet	Denison/ Edmund Terrill	Carrollton/Peters Colony	College Station/ Independence	Beaumont/ Paul Revere
El Paso/COL Turner R. Sharp	George West/ Live Oak	Denton/ Denton	Dallas/ Dallas	Hamilton/ Leon River Valley	Conroe/ Freedom
Lubbock/Texas Tech	Kerrville/ Hill Country	Fort Worth/MAJ. K. M. Van Zandt	Garland/ East Fork Trinity	Huntsville/ Capt. John McAdams	Galveston/ Bernardo de Galvez
Midland/Permian Basin	New Braunfels/ Wm. Hightower	Granbury/Brazos Valley	Greenville/ Amb. Fletcher Warren	Lufkin/Lt. Nathan Gann	Houston/ Paul Carrington
San Angelo/ Daniel Wood	San Antonio/ San Antonio	Irving/Blaine C. Wilhoite	Longview/East Texas	Nacogdoches/ Fredonia	Kingwood/ Piney Woods
	Smithville/ Aaron Burluson	Wichita Falls/ North Central Texas	Mesquite/ Mesquite	Salado/Heart of Texas	Lake Jackson/ Cradle of Texas
	Uvalde/Uvalde		Plano/ Plano	Waco/ Waco	Sugarland/ Alexander Hodge
	Victoria/ Victoria		Tyler/Capt. Wm.		

	Laredo/ Laredo Boerne/Boerne		Barron McKinney/ McKinney		Katy/Rankin
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**Consolidated Table of Regions in TXSSAR Rumbaugh Oration Contest Purposes (Page 2 of 2)**

Contact Information

Region 1; Bill Harper; 7111 Gainsborough, Amarillo, TX 79106-2615.  
Email: [billharper55@hotmail.com](mailto:billharper55@hotmail.com)

Region 2; Ray Walls; 112 River Bluff Drive, Sisterdale, TX 78006-7322.  
Email: [rwalls@gvtc.com](mailto:rwalls@gvtc.com)

Region 3; Clyde McMurray, II; 906 Sessions Street, Bowie, TX 76230.  
Email:

Region 4; Drake Peddie; 1501 Keswick Court, Richardson, TX 75082.  
Email: [DMPEDDIE@aol.com](mailto:DMPEDDIE@aol.com)

Region 5; Interim; Frederick L. Preston; 1306 Shady Lane, Lufkin, TX 75901. Email: [fpreston@consolidated.net](mailto:fpreston@consolidated.net)

Region 6; James E. Mitchell; P. O. Box 6953, Kingwood, TX 77325-6953.  
Email: [jemitch46@gmail.com](mailto:jemitch46@gmail.com)

**H. Texas SAR Oration Contact Chairperson:**

Peter H. Rowley  
Email: [ewfarm87@airmail.net](mailto:ewfarm87@airmail.net)  
Cell Phone: 214-533-9981