

# Student Summer Essay Contest Dallas County Pioneer Association

**Essay submission deadline:** August 31, 2026 - Presentation of awards: On or about December 5, 2026

**Eligibility:** Junior Division - Minimum age 12 years; Maximum Age 14 years; as of June 1, 2026

Senior Division - Minimum age 15 years; Maximum Age 18 years; as of June 1, 2026

**Sponsorship:** Each entrant must be sponsored by a parent or legal guardian who is an active member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association or who submits an application for membership and is approved prior to the submission deadline. <https://dallaspioneer.org/files/MemberAp3.pdf>

The sponsor must agree to be the point of contact for all communications between the Dallas County Pioneer Association and the entrant.

**Awards:** United States Treasury Series I Savings Bond (current annual interest rate 4.26% )

Junior Division:        First Place - \$ 1000 (Minimum of 5 Qualified Submissions)  
                                  Second Place - \$ 750 (Minimum of 10 Qualified Submissions)  
                                  Third Place - \$ 500 (Minimum of 15 Qualified Submissions)

Senior Division:        First Place - \$ 2000 (Minimum of 5 Qualified Submissions)  
                                  Second Place - \$ 1500 (Minimum of 10 Qualified Submissions)  
                                  Third Place - 1000 (Minimum of 15 Qualified Submissions)

If less than the minimum number of qualified submissions are received that award level will be eliminated.

**Application:** Complete the attached application form and email to: [historian@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:historian@dallaspioneer.org)

On receipt you will receive a confirmation and a packet of instructions.

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**Student Summer Essay Contest  
Dallas County Pioneer Association**

Application

I hereby apply to participate in the 2026 Student Summer Essay Contest

**Full Name:** (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ My current education level is equivalent to Grade \_\_\_\_\_

I am Home Schooled \_\_\_\_ Attend a Private or Charter School \_\_\_\_ Attend a Public School \_\_\_\_

I agree to personally research and compose the essay adhering to the guidelines. Initial \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I may consult with family members, teachers and other knowledgeable persons for advice and reference any publicly available material in the form of books, journals, magazines, films, diaries, personal letters and memoirs, etc., from libraries, museums or the Internet.

except for Open Edit websites such as Wikipedia / Wiki or similar. Initial \_\_\_\_\_

I will not use any form of Artificial Intelligence to compose any part of my essay. Initial \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor:** Full Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

I am the Parent or Legal Guardian of (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ I am an Active Member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association

\_\_\_\_\_ I am concurrently submitting an application for membership:

<https://dallaspioneer.org/files/MemberAp3.pdf>

I agree to be the point of contact between the Dallas County Pioneer Association and the applicant for all communications and the necessary steps to enable the award of the U S Treasury Series I Savings Bond.

<https://www.treasurydirect.gov/savings-bonds/gift-a-bond/>

**Sponsor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email completed application to: [historian@dallaspioneer.org](mailto:historian@dallaspioneer.org)