



Office of the Secretary of State 2009-2010 Student Programs



As you prepare your 2009-10 curriculum, please consider including one or more of the following educational programs offered by the Secretary of State that are designed to promote civic participation and awareness of Maine's History. To learn more, please visit our webpage: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/ or contact our office at 626-8400 or sos.office@maine.gov. An overview of each program can be found below.

Congressional Medal of Honor Project

A great idea for a Service Learning Project, students will study a local Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, work with the community to record an existing memorial or establish a memorial for the recipient. Research, design, presentations, fundraising and an enduring memorial for students to be proud of are the rewards. Learn more by visiting: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/cmoh/.

Native American History and Culture Essay Contest

Open to both middle and high schools, this contest is designed to give students an opportunity to showcase what they have learned through Maine Native American Studies. Winners receive an award and an opportunity for their class to view rare Native American Treaties at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. All participants receive an award certificate. Essays will be due in November. Find out more at: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/nativeamerican/.

Maine National History Day

An opportunity to meet MLR standards in many disciplines, History Day is part of a nationwide program that offers middle and high school students a chance to compete at the state level by producing a historical paper, exhibit, documentary, website or performance. There are individual and group divisions in all but the paper category.

The state contest will be held at the University of Maine at Augusta and is tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, March 24, 2010. First and second place state winners in all categories at both the junior and senior level qualify to attend National History Day at the University of Maryland in June. To learn more visit www.nhd.org or our website: www.maine.gov/sos/arc/historyday/histhome.htm.

If you would like to receive registration materials in the fall, send your mailing address to Nicole Ladner at sos.office@maine.gov.

Maine Constitution Poster and Essay Contest

One of our most popular programs, this contest gives students in grades K-12 an opportunity to “show what they know” about Maine. Winners receive an award and an invite for their class to view the original Maine Constitution at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. All participants receive an award certificate. Submissions are due in early March. To learn more visit:

www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/const_essay.htm

Eighth Grade Citizenship Awards

135 schools are honoring their graduating eighth graders with the Secretary of State’s Citizenship Award this year. Students are recognized for their civic awareness, scholastic achievements and community service. Many schools request a legislator to present the certificate at their awards ceremony. We will continue to offer our online nomination application, simplifying the process for you.

For details visit: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/8th_citi.html.

Student Presentations at the Maine State Archives

The teachers and classes that visit the Maine State Archives as part of their prize for winning a student contest repeatedly tell us how much they enjoyed the experience and how surprised they are at the resources available at the Archives. We would like to gauge interest in offering scheduled presentations to any grades 4-12 class wishing to visit.

A presentation begins with a discussion of the necessity a state archive and the different types of records in our holdings. Our archivists will display and explain examples of our Native American holdings, those pertaining to the Maine Constitution, or the Civil War and tailor it to your region of the state. If you have a particular topic that you are interested in exploring with your class at the Archives outside of the 3 listed above, you may inquire about the possibility of a presentation.

Please contact Nicole Ladner at sos.office@maine.gov if you are interested in such a program.



To learn more about any of our programs,
please visit our new, improved webpage

www.maine.gov/sos/kids/

or contact our office at 626-8400 or e-mail

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