



Matthew French Chapter NSDAR

Barbara Wood, Scholarship Committee Chair

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SCHOLARSHIP AND PACKET PREPARATION

The Matthew French Chapter NSDAR will award a one-time \$750 scholarship per high school to a high school senior attending Bluefield, Montcalm, Pikeview, or Princeton High School. The scholarships are funded by the generous donations of the daughters of the Matthew French Chapter NSDAR.

Who is eligible?

1. Mercer County Public Schools' high school seniors.
2. Applicants must be a citizen of the United States and Mercer County, West Virginia.
3. Applicants must attend a West Virginia or Virginia university/college of their choice.
4. Scholarships are judged and awarded regardless of race, religion, nationality, or gender.

Submit the 2026 Application Form with Documentation

1. The application packet MUST be complete and electronically submitted by 12:00 p.m. Midnight, March 31, 2026.
2. Applications are judged on character, academic skills, and essay content.
3. Use the following format to type the (1) list of extra-curricular activities, honors received and scholarship achievements, (2) statement of 600 words or less setting forth his/her career objectives, and (3) the essay of 400 words or less.
 - a. Paper Size: 8.5" x 11"
 - b. Font Type: Arial or Times New Roman
 - c. Font Size: 11 or 12 font
 - d. Margins: 1"
 - e. Single space for list of achievements
 - f. Double space for career objectives and essay
 - g. Number pages, if more than one page
 - h. Name and high school in upper right-hand corner on all pages
 - i. Title first page for the documents listed below.
 - i. List of Achievements
 - ii. Career Objectives
 - iii. Essay 1 – A Republican Form of Government – Can we keep it? OR
Essay 2 – Electoral College or Popular Vote?
4. Documents are free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors.
5. Submit the *Counselor Recommendation Form* to your counselor to complete on or before March 15, 2026
6. Label each file as follows:
 - a. Last Name, First Initial, Application (i.e., DoeJApplication)
 - b. Last Name, First Initial, Letter1 (i.e., DoeJLetter1 / DoeJLetter2)
 - c. Last Name, First Initial, Activities (i.e., (DoeJActivities)
 - d. Last Name, First Initial, Career (i.e., DoeJCareer)
 - e. Last Name, First Initial, Essay (i.e., DoeJEssay)
 - f. If all documents are submitted in one packet, Last Name, First Initial, Packet (i.e., DoeJPacket)
7. Only the winners will be notified.

Judging Matrix

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 15 points | Class Rank, Cumulative GPA, Test Scores, Citizenship |
| 25 points | List of Achievements, Letters of Recommendation |
| 30 points | Career Objectives |
| 30 points | Essay |

If you have questions regarding the Matthew French Chapter scholarship, please contact the Scholarship Committee Chair.



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The application must be complete and ALL letters of recommendation and other required documents **MUST BE EMAILED TO THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM MIDNIGHT MARCH 31, 2026**. Scholarships are judged and awarded without regard to gender, race, color, religion, national origin or disability.

The Scholarship Committee Chair will acknowledge the receipt of your emailed application. If you do not receive an email from the Scholarship Chair acknowledging receipt of your Scholarship Application by April 1, 2026, please call Barbara at 304.425.5856. Should a technical issue occur, the Scholarship Committee Chair will accept an application provided the applicant's email is dated by Midnight, March 31, 2026.

ONLY WINNERS are notified of the committee's decision. At this time, applicants notified of the pending scholarship award will be required to submit their university identification number. Scholarship must be used within one year or forfeited.

CHECK LIST – Initial each Check List box.

- Scholarship Application
- Two letters of recommendation. One from a principal, school counselor or teacher from the school now attending and one outside source. Letter should cover applicant's ability, work habits, integrity, character, and volunteer activities.
- List of extra-curricular activities, honors received, and scholarship achievements limited to one typed page.
- Statement of 600 words or less setting forth his/her career objectives (typed).
- Write an essay of 400 words or less on one of the essay topics (typed).
- Application packet must be electronically submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. Midnight on March 31, 2026.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Student Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Permanent Address:

Street _____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Include complete address for the college/university department to receive and credit any funds awarded. If you do not know the college/university you will attend by March 31, 2026, please mark unknown.

Name of college/university _____

Department _____

Street Address _____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Unknown as of March 31, 2026

2026 Essay Topics

What is our form of government?

The first shots of the American Revolutionary War were fired on April 19, 1775 at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, MA. The Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776, by representatives of the thirteen (13) colonies "declared...of right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown..." The final shot was fired at Yorktown, VA, when General Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington on October 19, 1781. The Treaty of Paris signed on September 3, 1783, by representatives of King George III of Great Britain and representatives of the United States officially ended the American Revolutionary War and recognized the Thirteen Colonies as free, sovereign and independent states. Four years later on September 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was signed and became the supreme law of the land. In 2014, it became the oldest, codified constitution in the world.

When leaving Constitution Hall on September 17, 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked by a lady, "Well, Doctor, what have we got – a republic or a monarchy?" "A republic," replied Franklin, "if you can keep it."

Article IV, Section 4 The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Essay 1 – A Republican Form of Government – Can we keep it?

People often refer to our form of government as a democracy when, in fact, it is a republic. What is a democracy, a republic and a monarchy? Were the framers right to establish a republic for our country? Why or why not? Why did Franklin think that a republican government may not last? Do we still have a republic? In your opinion, are we in danger of no longer being a republican form of government?

The Electoral College

Article II, Section 1 establishes the Electoral College used to elect the president and vice-president of the United States every four years. This process has evolved since its adoption in 1787. There are 538 electors who cast their vote for a presidential candidate with a simple majority of electoral votes (270) determining the winner. Each state receives at least 2 electoral votes, one electoral vote per senator, and an additional number of votes equal to the state's number of representatives in the House of Representatives. Even the least populous states receive at least three electoral votes. This system allocates votes based on state population fluctuations with each census. The electoral votes are reflective of the changes in the composition of our country.

The Electoral College is used to elect the president and vice-president while the popular vote determines the winners of all congressional, state and local races.

Forty-eight states and Washington DC award all their electoral votes to the candidate who receives the most votes in their states. Maine and Nebraska award two of their electoral votes to the winner in their state and the remaining votes are allocated to the winner of each congressional district.

It is possible for a presidential candidate to win the popular vote but lose the electoral vote, thus losing the election. This has occurred five times in US history, most recently in 2016.

Essay 2 – Electoral College or Popular Vote?

The Electoral College ensures that all sections of our country are involved in selecting the president and vice-president of the United States, regardless of population. Also, it ensures a president is elected and certified by January 6. Recounts or run-off elections do not impact the presidential election. Were the framers right in establishing the Electoral College? Is too much power given to swing states in determining the next president? Should the Constitution be amended by two-thirds vote of the states to eliminate the Electoral College and allow the popular vote elect the president and vice-president?