

Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge



2026 Illustrated Poem Contest

The Winter Encampment at Valley Forge

The Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge (DVF) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for 4-6th grade members along with the child, grandchild, niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, brother, or sister of a member .

Contest Deadline: May 1, 2026

Prizes: 1st—\$75 2nd—\$50 3rd—\$25

Background: During the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge between December 19, 1777 and June 19, 1778, in order to rest for the winter. It was at this site that the soldiers located supplies, built log cabins and huts, and dug miles of trenches for defense against a British attack. Nearly 2,000 men died during this winter while those who survived came out of the experience well trained for battle.

Instructions:

- Write & illustrate a poem using the DVF theme, "The Winter Encampment at Valley Forge."
 - Your poem must be no more than 40 words and may be any of the following styles:
HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM - FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE
 - Possible topics include the soldiers life at Valley Forge, the harsh conditions the soldiers faced, the training by Baron VonSteuben, and the leadership of George Washington. Entries will be judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the theme, word choice and imagery, and colorful, creative artwork.
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Contest Rules:

- Students in grades 4, 5, or 6 for the 2025-2026 school year, may enter.
- Poems must conform to one of the above styles. No poem may be longer than 40 words.
- The topic of the poem and the illustration must be related to the 2026 theme, "The First Signs of Spring at Valley Forge."
- All entries must be original works without aid from others.
- Each poem must be illustrated on an unlined sheet of paper (of any type) not larger than 8.5" x 11". The illustration must be created by hand using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers. The text of the poem should be easy to read and may be printed with a computer before the hand drawn illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- Only one original entry per student will be accepted with no entries from previous winners.
 - All entries must include an entry form.
 - All illustrated poems and/or digital representations of the poems become the property of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.
 - Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' names, likenesses, and entries for editorial, advertising, and publicity purposes.



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ENTRY FORM

Contest Deadline: May 1, 2026

E-Mail Entries to DVFScholarshipAwards@gmail.com

Instructions: Please complete this form, print, cut out, and *attach to the back of the poem*. All fields are required. Incomplete forms will invalidate the entry. You may also scan and email your submission.

Questions: Contact DVFScholarshipAwards@gmail.com



Student Information			
Student Name:			
Grade:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Parent/Guardian Name:			
Phone:			
Email:			
School Information			
School Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Teacher Name:			
Email:			