



Office of the Secretary of State

2016-2017

Student Programs



As you prepare your 2016-17 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 website: 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. **Please visit program web pages for participation instructions.**

Voter Reg Rumble - NEW

This General Election season, Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap is hosting a voter registration competition encouraging students to get involved in the electoral process. Any student group can participate by hosting a voter registration event/booth/or other effort to collect completed voter registration cards on their school campus. Voter registration can be encouraged for students, staff, faculty, visitors—any citizen who is eligible to vote in the United States. The deadline to see which school can get the most people to complete a voter registration card is **October 17, 2016**.

The winning school will receive a visit from Secretary Dunlap, who will meet with students to discuss the importance of voting, the challenges of overseeing the elections process, and to listen to their ideas and concerns about voting. The secretary's office will also announce the results of the contest publicly.

For more information and to register visit: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/voterregdrive.html. Additional information is available at: www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html. School participation will be updated on the department Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MaineSOS/. Contact Kristen Muszynski for more information via email, Kristen.muszynski@maine.gov; or phone, 626-8404.

Maine Student Mock Election - NEW TIME

The Secretary of State's Office will sponsor the Maine National Student/Parent Mock Election on Wednesday, **October 26, 2016**. Please keep this program in mind as a tool to engage students in the electoral process. More than 40,000 students from 188 schools participated in the last presidential year Mock Election (2012). Our Rally and Tally event will be held that day at the Augusta Armory from **10:00am-1:00pm**. Please join us at this event where your students' votes are combined with their peers across the nation via the National Student/Parent Mock Election program. For more information and to view 2014 results, visit www.maine.gov/sos/kids/mockelection/.

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 in Maine Native American Studies. Each student will receive a participation certificate. Selected essays in both the middle school and high school categories receive an award certificate and an opportunity for their class to view rare and important Native American documents held at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. Essays are **due on November 14, 2016**. Learn more at: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/nativeamerican/.

Congressional Medal of Honor Project

A great idea for a Service Learning Project; students study a local Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, then work with the community to record an existing memorial or establish a memorial for the recipient. Students engage in research, design, presentations, fundraising and planning for an enduring memorial. Learn more by visiting: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/cmoh/.

Maine's Civil War History for Schools Program

The State Archivist will visit your school to speak with students about the impact that Maine had on the Civil War and the impact that the Civil War had on Maine. The presentation brings the topic to a local level, with accounts of people in your town or neighboring towns who contributed to or participated in the war efforts. The Maine State Archives holds the most extensive collection of Civil War documents in the nation. The program is free and is tailored 100% for your school. The presentation can be planned to suit any grade-level (5-12) and group size. Additionally, any specific topic your class has been studying may be incorporated into the presentation.

To view a list of schools that have participated in this program and to learn more, visit: www.maine.gov/sos/arc/sesschools/index.html. To sign up, contact Melissa Couture at 626-8400 or sos.office@maine.gov.

Maine Constitution Essay and Poster Contest

One of our most popular programs, this contest gives students in grades K-12 an opportunity to “show what they know” about Maine. Each student will receive a participation certificate. Students submitting selected entries receive an award certificate and the choice of either a classroom invitation to view the original Maine Constitution at the Maine State Archives in Augusta, or the opportunity to have Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap visit their classroom. Submissions are **due on March 10, 2017**. To learn more visit: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/const_essay.htm.

Eighth Grade Citizenship Awards

This program recognizes students for their civic awareness, scholastic achievements and community service. In 2016, 132 schools honored a graduating eighth grader with the Secretary of State's Citizenship Award. Many schools request a legislator to present the certificate at their awards ceremony. Nominations are **due by May 24, 2017** and must be sent in at least 2 weeks prior to your award ceremony. To learn more visit: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/8th_citi.html.

Student Tours of the Maine State Archives

The teachers and classes who visit the Maine State Archives as part of their prize for winning a student contest often remark at how much they enjoyed the experience and how surprised they are to learn about resources available at the Archives. We offer scheduled presentations to any class (grades 4-12) wishing to visit.

A presentation begins with a discussion of the necessity of a state archive and the different types of records in our holdings. The 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 an alternate topic that you are interested in exploring with your class at the Archives, you may inquire about the possibility of a presentation. To schedule a visit, contact Nicole Ladner at sos.office@maine.gov or 626-8400.

Civil War Primary Source Documents in Digital Format

The Maine State Archives has produced a webpage with stories of Maine people and their experiences during the period from November 1860 through 1865. The accounts draw on primary sources from the Maine State Archives and other historical societies and libraries from around the state. They are listed in chronological order with study questions and links to primary documents provided for most. In addition, a keyword search is available for a specific person, town or event (or other significant subject), enabling you to tie this material into your current curriculum. To learn more visit: www.maine.gov/sos/arc/sesquicent/civilwarwk.html.