



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc National Irish History Contest Guidelines and Information for 2026-2027

Contest Topic

Beyond St. Patrick, St. Brigid, and St. Columcille, which other Irish Saints helped shape and sustain Ireland's Catholic identity?

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc (LAOH) sponsors a National Irish History Contest for students in Grades 6 through 12. The Contest is comprised of two (2) Levels: Level 1 is for students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 and Level 2 is for students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. Students enrolled in parochial, private, public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate. Students do not need to be Irish to participate in the LAOH National Irish History Contest.

Each student through their participation gives permission to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc to share their submitted entry with the LAOH membership at meetings, events, and/or shared on the LAOH website (www.ladiesaoh.com). The winning entries at each Level will be posted on the LAOH website. Only the student's first name, grade level, and state will be posted.

STUDENT SUBMISSION OPTIONS

Level 1 – Grades 6, 7, or 8 – Not less than 500 words and not more than 1,000 words

Level 2 – Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 – Not less than 750 words and not more than 1,500 words.

TYPES OF NATIONAL IRISH HISTORY CONTEST OPTIONS

- **Written Paper** – Student submission may be in the form of an essay, a creative writing piece, a poem, a song, or an interview with a historic figure.
- **Power Point Presentation** – Student Submission may contain only the specified number of words per Grade Level including the written text, captions, talking points, quotations, and words in footnotes/endnotes/internal documentation. Talking points may be included in the body of the Power Point Frame or in notes on the bottom of each Power Point Frame.
- **Website** – Students submission must be an original design. – Student Submission may contain only the specified number of words per Grade Level including the written text, captions, talking points, quotations, and words in footnotes/endnotes/internal documentation. Talking points may be included in the body of the Website. A themed paper should be included with the website.

GENERAL FORMAT RULES

- Written document is to be completed using Microsoft Word, New Times Roman, Font Size 12.
- Written document is to be double spaced including Title Page, Body of Document, and Works Cited.
- Title Page is to be the first page using double-space line formatting which states the Student's Name, Address including City, State, Zip Code, Phone Number, School Name, Grade Level, and Number of Words in the document.
- Student Name is not to appear on any page except the Title Page.

- Page Numbers are to be placed in the upper right-hand margin and page numbers are to be consecutive beginning with the Title Page.
- Works Cited/Resources Page follows the body of the submission which acknowledges all references used, quotation cited, and resources used. Taking the ideas of another person and presenting them as your own is Plagiarism.
- Any entry found to contain more than 10% AI-generated content will be disqualified.
- Wikipedia is not to be used as a reference.
- Drawings, Maps, Charts or Pictures are not to be included.
- Running Heads/Headers are not to be used.
- All work needs to be cited.
- Student entries are to be submitted electronically to the local LAOH Irish Historian no later than October 30, 2026.

JUDGING CRITERIA INFORMATION

Student submissions are judged blindly using the following categories each of which has a weighted value with the maximum total of 100 points available for each student submission:

1. **Comprehension** (1-35 Points) – Student's knowledge of topic is supported with evidence from chosen references. The student's submission demonstrates his/her ability to grasp wider implications of the topic.
2. **Writing** (1-20 Points) – Student's presentation is free of distracting spelling and punctuation errors. Effective sentence structure and transitions are present.
3. **Organization** (1-15 Points) – Student submission has obvious beginning, middle, and cumulative ending. All expressions are clear and effective.
4. **Conclusion** (1-15 Points) – Material presented is in chronological and clear order. The material presented leads to a sound ending and answers the topic question.
5. **Creativity** (1-15 Points) – Student's approach to the topic demonstrates original thought and presentation.

NATIONAL IRISH HISTORY CONTEST TIMELINES

- Start Date – April 1, 2026
- End Date – October 30, 2026

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Scholarships are awarded as follows:

Level 1

1st place \$1,000.00
2nd Place \$500.00
3rd Place \$250.00

Level 2

1st Place \$1,500.00
2nd Place \$1,000.00
3rd Place \$750.00