



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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RUBINCAM YOUTH AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Junior Rubincam Youth Award

Deadline for Submissions—15 December annually

Applicants are notified of the decision by 1 April annually through e-mail

Applicant is a student in Grades 7 to 9, and between the ages of 13 to 15 (by 31 December annually).

Each applicant should submit an electronic written, narrative essay in a biographical format of a principal individual, either male or female. Applicants may use a natural or adoptive parent or a guardian as the principal individual.

The submission should contain between 750 to 1200 words and four to five written pages. It should demonstrate the applicant's beginning understanding of various genealogical records and concepts. Applicants should apply intellectual skills in compiling the family genealogy and place events in historical context.

As you put together your submission, you may want to use the following steps prior to writing out your biographic submission. However, please submit only the written, narrative essay.

Step No. 1:

Families are special and unique. Within every family there are unrecognized heroes. Select a person whom you admire and respect and conduct an in-person oral interview. You may record the interview with the person's permission.

Some open ended questions might include:

- Names – Why did your parents select your name for you? Did you have a nickname?

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- Residences – Where did you grow up? How did your family come to live there? Describe the house (apartment, farm, etc.) you lived in. How many rooms? How many bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Did you have a cell phone? Did you have a television? Were there any special items in the house that you remember?
- Childhood memories – What is your earliest childhood memory? What kind of games did you play? What kind of toys did you have? What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)? What were your family chores? Who were your childhood heroes and why? How is the world today different from when you were a child?
- Family – Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about that person? What stories have come down to you about your parents? Did you know your grandparents? Did your grandparents tell you family stories? Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family? Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable? What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?
- School – What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? Where did you attend High school? Where did you attend College? What school activities and sports did you participate in?
- Religion – What was your religion? Did you attend religious services while growing up? What did you do on Saturday/Sunday? How did you celebrate your religious holidays (Christmas, Easter, Chanukah, Passover, other)?
- Holidays – How did your family celebrate special days (birthdays, Thanksgiving, 4th of July, etc.)? Did your family have unique foods or traditions?
- Employment – What was your profession? What made you select that job? If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice? What accomplishments were you most proud of?

Step No. 2:

Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down to you? Items may include: journals/diaries, letters, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, announcements for weddings or births, family Bibles, baby books, photo albums, memorial cards, and autograph books.

Ask to look at some of these home sources with your relative. As you look at the items, listen carefully to what your relative says about them. Ask questions like: Why is it important to you? Who are the people? (This may overlap with some of the information in the above exercise.)

Step No. 3:

Create a timeline of your relative's life. In addition to relevant biographical information (including birth date and place, the names of parents, marriage(s), parents' deaths, spouse(s), birth of children), include pertinent historical events for the native homeland.

Step No. 4:

Based on the information you collected, write a narrative essay for submission. It has between 750 to 1200 words and four to five written pages. Besides relevant biographical information (including birth date and place and the names of parents, marriage(s), spouse(s), and names of children), discuss why this person is important to you.

Please include an authorization letter from the principle person of your essay.

Style

Submission style

- Typed on 8-1/2" x 11" letter paper.
- Double-spaced.
- Have one-inch margins on all four sides.
- Pages numbered consecutively, with the title (cover) page counting as the first page
- Submission should not exceed one title (cover) page and five written essay pages

Submission contains

- Title page with
 - Title
 - Applicant's contact information
 - Name
 - Address
 - Telephone
 - E-mail
 - School
 - Grade
 - Age
 - Submission date
- Narrative essay (beginning on page 2)
- Contains appropriate footnotes
- Pages numbered consecutively
- Submit a word or pdf document

Supportive evidence

- Cite in footnote form
- Do not send timeline, documents, or pictures

Send your completed submission by mail to

- NGS Junior Rubincam Award National Genealogical Society 6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810, Falls Church, VA 22042-2318 USA

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If you send it by mail please get a tracking number so to be sure it arrives

Or you can send your completed submission as an attachment to

- awards@ngsgenealogy.org
- Received at the NGS office by 15 December
- **Questions?** Contact the NGS Awards Chair at awards@ngsgenealogy.org

For more information, the downloadable PDF *Other Citation Forms* (PDF 35.9KB) and *Suggested References* (PDF 37KB).