

National award level for this year! 1st Place **\$4,000**; 2nd place **\$1,500** and 3rd place **\$1,000**

The following criterion applies to a cadet nominated by his/her JROTC Unit for Outstanding Cadet in the enhanced program:

JROTC Enhanced Program

+3rd year of a 4 year Program or 2nd year of a 3 year Program (**cadet must be a junior**);

+Top 10% of JROTC Class;

+Top 25% of his/her Student Body Class. (**Each year we receive entries not in top 25%**)

The program requires that a cadet write an original 500-700 word Essay in addition to meeting the above listed criteria. The original Essay Topic as found on the Nomination Form is

“How JROTC has prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States of America.”

A completed Nomination Form (see attached to this email) and Recommendations (Endorsements) from the **SMI** and the school **Principal** are also required. The Principal's Endorsement must also verify the **Class Standing** and **GPA** of the cadet. A transcript may be provided, but ***GPA verification by the Principal in his/her recommendation is still required.***

Each JROTC Unit may nominate one cadet to represent them in the Chapter and/or State competition.

There is a special **Chapter Outstanding Cadet Medal Package** (bronze medallion with neck ribbon) for the Enhanced Program Winner, available at the NSSAR Store. The OC Medal Package (bronze medallion on neck ribbon, ribbon with gold frame and a bronze star, certificate) costs \$45.00. Chapters are encouraged to present the Chapter OC Medal at their regular chapter meeting and then, present it again, at the JROTC Unit's Awards Ceremony or Awards Banquet.

Chapters may offer a monetary award to their winner, and they may also present a Certificate of Appreciation to each cadet nominated for the chapter contest.

Under certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to award the Chapter Runner-up with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Ribbon (listed as the Sea Cadet Ribbon) (both available at the NSSAR Store). The NSSAR Store carries an Outstanding Citizenship Pin with certificate that could be awarded to all participants.

There is a special **State Outstanding Cadet Medal Package** (silver medallion on neck ribbon, ribbon with gold frame and a silver star, certificate) that costs \$45.00. The State Society OC Medal could likewise be presented at the State Society Awards Ceremony and then presented again at the Unit's Awards Ceremony or Banquet.

State Societies may also offer a monetary award to their Winner and Runner-up.

SAR Enhanced JROTC Program to select the OC (Outstanding Cadet) ... continue page 2.

The **State Society Winner's (Enhanced Program) Outstanding Cadet Package should reach me NLT Tuesday 1 May 2018.**

Recommend that you send me your OC Winner Package early so that, if needed, corrections or adjustments could be made to the package before the deadline. *State Societies are encouraged to send me a copy of the OC Package by e-mail (Word or PDF).*

DO NOT SEND REGISTERED MAIL – include self addressed envelope, if you want a receipt.

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GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:

* If the SMI (Senior Military Instructor) has not already been contacted, now is the time for the Chapter Representative (President, Vice President, JROTC Chair) to affect liaison with the SMI at each JROTC Unit supported by the Chapter and reiterate the requirements for the Enhanced Program (sometimes referred to as the JROTC Outstanding Cadet Essay Contest). Chapters should follow up with phone calls or visits as your deadline starts to approach, to encourage the SMI to select the Outstanding Cadet for the Enhanced Program and to put together the OC Package (Nominating Form, Recommendation by SMI, Recommendation by Principal with verification of Cadet's Class Standing and GPA, and Essay).

* Topic for the 500-700 word original Essay remains as in previous years - "How JROTC has prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States of America." Essay should be doubled spaced (a line between each typed line) and the Cadet's name, rank and Units name and school should be on the first page. The cadet's name should appear on each page of the Essay. **A word count must be displayed.**

*The Nominating Form clearly states that **additional pages may be attached**, as required; however, a cadet will not be selected because of volume or weight. The more we know about the accomplishments of your cadet both inside and outside the class room, the better for them, at judging time.

***Lessons Learned from the last couple of years:**

- SMI should complete Nomination Form with input from cadet – list sponsor, chapter/state society. If extra space/pages are needed to answer a section, then please provide it.
- All lines of Nomination Form should have an entry
- Be specific, list what the cadet has done (general comments do not assist your cadet)
- List the facts and accomplishments instead of flowery adjectives.
- List awards – example: Varsity Letter Football, All District Tennis, All State Chorus, VFW Medal, Employment, After School programs and Weekend Activity, etc.

SAR Enhanced JROTC Program to select the OC (Outstanding Cadet) ... continue page 3.

- Ensure the cadet **is a Junior**
- Ensure the cadet is in the 3rd year of 4 year program or 2nd year of 3 year program.
- Ensure the cadet is in the Top 25% of his or her class (verified by Principal).
- Strong Endorsements (Recommendations) by Principal and SMI are critical. Try not to repeat the same information about the cadet.
- Write up accomplishments like one was **justifying** a military medal, not the words for the citation
- Essays are not proctored, there is no excuse for spelling or grammar errors (please proof) and **must** include a Word Count. Recommend that someone in the English dept. review it.
- Only complete OC Packages will be forwarded to the Judges
- The more we know about your great cadet, the better we do at selecting a winner!

Last Year's Results

Top 10 entries were from: Air Force=4, Army=3, Marines=2, Navy=1 (1st=AF, 2nd=MC,3rd=AF)
We had 24 entries and 2 rejected for not being in the top 25% of their student body class.
Among the top entries the SMI and Principal letters were very good and told a complete story.
Academic Extra Curricular Activities & Position section for all 3 years were completed fully
Non-Scholastic / Non-JROTC Activities & Position section for all 3 years were completed fully.
Essays were well written with no grammar or spelling errors, and the message was clear.

Ask for a Review before submitting a final package from your State Society!

If you submit it early to me, I will review and get back to you ASAP.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail or phone.

Promoting Patriotism,

David J. Perkins
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Funding Raising for the JROTC Endowment Fund

For those who would like to recognize one or more of your JROTC military instructors for his or her work with supporting our program, I would like to suggest the new JROTC lapel pin that we, the members of the national committee, now have available for sale.

The sales generated from these lapel pins is being used to increase the JROTC endowment fund, from which we draw each year to cover the costs of the awards, so the more we are able to raise, the more we can increase the annual awards.

The pin is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter and costs \$25.

I thank you for your support!

All funds raised from the sale of the lapel pin are now being added the endowment fund.

The fund started the year at about \$112,000 and as of the end of August is just under \$126,000.

Using the typical drawdown of 4%, that's only about \$4,500 a year for the awards. With the help of the NSSAR Youth Awards Council we are able to continue the current award levels for this year only.

The endowment fund needs to grow to about \$140,000 to meet all our current needs for the top 3 national awards and travel expenses for the winner.

So any help we can get from the chapters and the state societies with growing the JROTC endowment fund is greatly appreciated!

JROTC endowment medal is \$1,000 and can be paid over multiple years, the lapel pin is \$25 and any donations at any time, are always welcomed!

So I'm looking for 15 brave souls to step forward and join with those of us who have already made the pledge of \$1,000 for the endowment fund.

If each state from last year, submits an entry this year, and could also find just one compatriot to make a JROTC pledge, that would raise \$24,000 and bring us to \$150,000. Wow!

Dave Perkins, Connecticut Society

