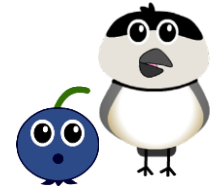




Office of the Secretary of State 2019-2020 Student Programs



As you prepare your 2019-2020 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** and sign up for the appropriate email list on the sign-up sheet included with this mailing. Be sure to review our insert on Maine bicentennial programming!

NEW – Redesigned Kids' Page

Check out the NEW Kids' Page at mainekidspage.org. This redesign makes the page compatible with all electronic devices and meets current accessibility requirements. It features a Maine woods and waters theme and a new animation about lawmaking in Maine. We are introducing new characters, yet all of your favorite games are still available.

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 by November 12, 2019**. Visit maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/nativeamerican to learn more.

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 winning 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 by March 13, 2020**. To learn more, visit maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/constitution-essay.

Eighth-Grade Citizenship Awards

This program recognizes students for their civic awareness, scholastic achievements and community service. In 2019, 128 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 for next year's program are **due by May 20, 2020** and must be sent in at least 2 weeks prior to your award ceremony. To learn more, visit maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/eighth-grade-citizenship-award.

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 bring attention to 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 maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/cmoh.

Maine's Civil War History for Schools Program

An 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 presentation is tailored to your school and 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 learn more, visit maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/sesschools.

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 entries. 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. View the many narratives at maine.gov/sos/arc/sesquicent/civilwarwk.html

Student Presentations at the Maine State Archives

The teachers and classes that visit the Maine State Archives as part of their prize for winning a student contest often remark 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. Visit the webpage at maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/archivevisits.

NEW - In addition, you and your students may work one-on-one with an archivist on history projects. Contact Heather Moran at heather.moran@maine.gov or 287-5789 to get started.

Digital Maine Transcription Project

The Maine State Archives regularly uploads historical documents to the **Digital Maine** repository produced by the Maine State Library. The documents include Civil War hospital records and correspondence, slavery and African-American history documents, militia records from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, and town histories. This site makes Maine's history accessible online and the **Digital Maine Transcription Project** allows people to transcribe them. The result promotes even greater access to the records, as they will be fully text searchable and ADA compliant. To learn more, see digitalmaine.com/archives/ and digitalmaine.net/projects/.