



Office of the Secretary of State

2020-2021

Student Programs



As you prepare your 2020-2021 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. Please be aware as you prepare for remote learning that the [Kids' Page](#) redesign is compatible with all electronic devices and meets current accessibility requirements.

To learn more about the programs below, please visit our website: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/ or contact our office at 626-8400 or sos.office@maine.gov. **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 the Maine bicentennial programming listing!

Maine Student Mock Election - www.maine.gov/sos/kids/mockelection/

The Secretary of State's Office will sponsor the Maine National Student/Parent Mock Election on **October 21, 2020**. More than 26,500 students from more than 150 schools participated for the 2016 presidential election. Please keep this program in mind as a tool to engage students in the electoral process. Due to COVID precautions, there will not be a Rally & Tally event held in Augusta this year. Check out the **NEW Virtual Voting Place Tour** that we created as a teaching tool for remote learning. Additionally, voting can be done any day up to and including October 21 to accommodate student cohort groups. Students' votes will be combined with those of their peers across the country via the National Student/Parent Mock Election program.

Native American History and Culture Essay Contest - maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/nativeamerican

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. Essays are **due by November 10, 2020**.

Maine Constitution Essay and Poster Contest - maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/constitution-essay

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. Submissions are **due March 12, 2021**.

Eighth-Grade Citizenship Awards - maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/eighth-grade-citizenship-award

This program recognizes students for their civic awareness, scholastic achievements and community service. In 2020, 104 schools honored a graduating eighth-grader with the Secretary of State's Citizenship Award. Nominations for next year's program are **due by May 19, 2021**.

Congressional Medal of Honor Project - maine.gov/sos/kids/programs/cmoh

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.

Maine State Archives Educational Programs

The Maine State Archives offers a variety of **online educational programs** that can be tailored to your specific interest or research focus. Each 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 primary source documents and tailor the discussion to your region of the state. If you have a particular topic that you are interested in exploring with your class, just let us know! To schedule a program, contact Katherine McBrien, Deputy Secretary of State for Archives, at 287-5790 or katherine.mcbrien@maine.gov.

Special BICENTENNIAL Programs online

Maine State Archives Virtual Reality Series - www.maine.gov/sos/arc/bicentennialmsa.html

Visit historic sites across the state from the comfort of your home or classroom. This program allows students to explore a variety of notable locations online in full 3D, with pop-up information about the site and its history.

Maine Bicentennial Moments - www.maine.gov/sos/arc/bicentennialmsa.html

Maine history is featured in these 30-second public service announcements. Each video includes images and documents from the Archives and other sources to highlight a particular person, place or event in Maine history.

Intro to the Archives

What is an archive and what records does it hold? This program is an introduction to the Maine State Archives including a discussion of how to conduct research from its holdings. Recommended for grade 6 and above.

Teaching with primary sources

You can learn about teaching with primary sources in this online video featuring Reference & Outreach Archivist Heather Moran: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wflkURmn68g&list=PL-cO8lcaOYu1BRXu-1AZoIN_wJMa5pB5e&index=52&t=0s

Statehood for Maine

The effort to separate the District of Maine from the State of Massachusetts took many years and much negotiation, including at the federal level. This program looks at the reasons behind Maine's separation from Massachusetts and the process in which we formed our own state. Recommended for grade 4 and above.

Maine in the Civil War

This program explores the impact that Maine had on the Civil War and the impact 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 effort. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Topic of your choice

What is your group or class studying about Maine's history and the role of our state government? How can we help? Maine State Archives staff are available to discuss and explore additional program topics, based on your need and our documents. Give us a call at 287-5790.

Ask the Archivist

Learners of all ages need help with research from time to time. If you are stuck in your research or need suggestions on where to start, our archivists are here to help! This can be especially helpful for school projects, including National History Day. Contact Reference & Outreach Archivist Heather Moran at heather.moran@maine.gov or 287-5789 to schedule a one-hour work session with an archivist.

Ask the Genealogist

If you need help searching for an ancestor or could use a suggestion of where to look next, our archivists can help. Contact Archivist III Sam Howes at samuel.howes@maine.gov or call 287-5778 to schedule a one-hour help session for your genealogy research.