



The 2026 Joanne Holbrook Patton Student Writing Prize

The Joanne Holbrook Patton Student Writing Prize is being offered by the organizers of the 11th annual Military Service Day at Patton Homestead. Entries are now being accepted through **June 25, 2026**.

The writing competition is an opportunity for high school and college students to compose a thoughtful piece of prose or poetry, fiction or nonfiction, and to be recognized for writing excellence. Winners receive a \$1000 monetary award. Organizers are launching this competition to engage young Americans in meaningful reflection on the values of service and sacrifice championed by Joanne Patton, and to foster greater awareness of and appreciation for the contributions of veterans, their families and those who have sacrificed for others. Two awards will be granted, one for a high school student and one for a college student.

COMPETITION DETAILS:

Entry Information: The competition is open to high school and college students with two separate competitions – one for high school students and one for college students.

Submission Topics and Guidelines: Students may submit a writing entry of any length, in any style – prose or poetry and must address the following questions:

Choose one:

How have you witnessed service or sacrifice in your family or community?

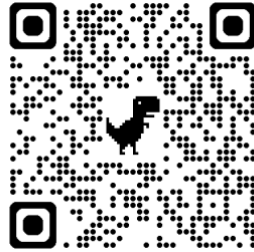
Are the values of service to, and sacrifice for, others important today?

Tell the world about someone you know, or know of, who has served and/or sacrificed for others.

All entries must be in PDF format and must feature - writers name, school, grade and email address in the top right corner of the first page.

Completed writing projects: Must be submitted here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3adXxs2Bb_LvRU91ppssoKWuwu3LkDMrh-dtdP_GuZOD7rA/viewform?usp=header



Submission Period: Now – June 25, 2026

Award Information: A \$1,000 cash award will be given to the winner in each category in the high school and college categories.

Judges: Distinguished judges including a high school English teacher, a veteran, a college educator and members of the Patton family will read all essays to determine the winners.

Winner Announcement: July 18, 2026 at Military Service Day. Winners will be contacted individually.

Award Ceremony: An award ceremony will be at the 11th annual Military Service Day on **July 18, 2026**, at Patton Homestead in Hamilton, MA.

All qualifying entries will be collected and published in a commemorative anthology, creating a lasting testament to young voices reflecting on service and sacrifice.

ABOUT JOANNE HOLBROOK PATTON

Joanne Holbrook Patton, wife of General George S. Patton IV and daughter-in-law of World War II General George S. Patton. Joanne Holbrook Patton left a legacy of commitment to service, volunteerism, and philanthropy, both nationally and within her local community. For over 65 years she was a tireless advocate for community and service. Mrs. Patton championed the cause of families of those serving abroad during the Vietnam War. She received several military and civilian awards, including the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the U.S. Army. She was a tireless promoter of civilian family social services, the welfare of people with intellectual disabilities, and the arts.

ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE DAY

The 2026 Military Service Day is an historically significant event focused on the celebration of its 11th anniversary in conjunction with the nation's observance of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution (1775–2025), and the birthday of the United States Army. It honors the home of The Patton Family, one of America's most famous and celebrated military. The event shares military histories as a positive community engagement to bring education and awareness to American service of all kinds.

For further information, please contact: Ernest Stone, es@herneststone.com or Peter Gwinn, petergwinnIMC@gmail.com.