

# Sara De Soto NSDAR Scholarship Application

## The Beginning

In 1925, the first meeting of the chapter was held on February 27 at the residence of Mrs. J. O. Gardner, the Organizing Regent; a charter was received in April for The Sara De Soto Chapter, NSDAR.

In 1939, Dr. Whitaker deeded three lots of land to the Sara De Soto Chapter, NSDAR in return for providing perpetual maintenance of the Pioneer Whitaker Cemetery.

In 1959, the chapter obtained an office building and moved it onto their property. Dedication of chapter house was made, November 4.

## Our Chapter Name

The chapter was named after Sara De Soto, daughter of the Spanish explorer, Hernando De Soto. He had explored this part of Florida in 1539 and, according to legend, he had his daughter Sara with him. Sara met and fell in love with a native warrior by the name of Chi Chi Okobe (pronounced Chee Chee Okobee). He was a member of the Calusa tribe which inhabited this region at that time.

Unfortunately, he contracted some kind of fever and became gravely ill. Sara decided to remain with him and nurse him back to health, but she contracted the fever and she died. Chi Chi Okobe was grief-stricken at the loss of his love. He had her body buried out in the bay. He then sent 100 of his best warriors out to the spot where they chopped holes in the bottoms of their canoes and drowned themselves to protect her final resting place. According to the legend, when you see whitecaps on the waves in the bay, they are actually the feather headdresses of those native warriors still guarding her grave.



First Sara De Soto Pageant, 1916 Sarasota, FL

Image courtesy of Sarasota History Center

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

**Scholarship Focus:** Financial assistance to an individual pursuing a degree from an accredited college or trade school.

**Scholarship Amount:** One scholarship will be awarded each year for tuition in the amount of \$1,000. Payment will be forwarded directly to the school for distribution. Should the applicant fail to attend, the proceeds will be returned to the Chapter.

**Applicant Eligibility:** Scholarship applicants must be permanent resident or work in Sarasota or Manatee County.

**Application Forms are available at the following websites:**

- Sara De Soto NSDAR Chapter <https://www.fssdar.com/SaraDeSoto>
- Manatee Education Foundation Scholarship Source <https://mefinfo.org/the-scholarship-source/>
- Education Foundation of Sarasota County <https://edfoundationsrq.org/scholarships/>
- Community Foundation of Sarasota County <https://cfsarasota.org>

**Application Deadline:** Completed applications must be emailed by **April 15th** to

Suzi Atherton, Scholarship Chair  
[suzimatherton@gmail.com](mailto:suzimatherton@gmail.com)  
941-518-4994

**Recipient Selection:** Scholarship recipients will be selected by the Scholarship Committee based on the criteria stated below. In the event there are no qualified applicants, the scholarship will not be awarded that year.

**Scholarship Award Notification:** All applicants will be notified in writing whether or not they received an award. The recipient of the scholarship will be announced and invited to attend a special meeting of the Sara De Soto DAR Chapter.

**SARA DE SOTO DAR CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP**

**Scholarship Application Form**

*(Print clearly using black ink or type. Typed inserts may be used where more space is needed or this document may be scanned or reproduced.)*

**Personal Information**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational History**

**High School** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year graduated** \_\_\_\_\_

**College** \_\_\_\_\_ **From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**College** \_\_\_\_\_ **From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major** \_\_\_\_\_ **Minor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year received** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduate Work** \_\_\_\_\_ **From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Career Objectives:**

Have you been officially accepted into an accredited college or trade school? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please attach written verification from the school.

**Name of School** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree to be obtained** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date to be completed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Involvement/Work:**

**Describe your community involvement, such as membership in professional, religious or volunteer organizations along with duties, offices and length of service.**

**Employment History**

**Are you presently employed? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, where \_\_\_\_\_**

**Work Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Previous employment \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Goals:**

**Describe your educational, professional and personal goals, both short and long range. Include how your course of study will help you attain these goals.**

**Reasons for applying for this scholarship:**

**Essay:**

Please attach an essay between 1,000-1,500 words on the following topic:

**What does it mean to you to recite the Pledge of Alliance to the United States?**

**References:**

Please attach *two* letters of reference, one from a member of the community, and one from a representative of either your school or place of employment. You are encouraged to select a high school or college instructor or counselor, an employer or job supervisor as a reference. It should be someone who knows you well and is in a position to evaluate you according to the given criteria. References may not be family members.

**Attachment checklist:**

- Completed application
- High school transcript
- University or trade school letter of acceptance
- Two letters of reference
- Essay

**I hereby certify that the statements given in this application are true. If I am selected to receive a scholarship, the Chapter may publish my essay in their newsletter.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_