

**Carlton County Historical Society
Local Women's History Affinity Group
Essay Contest for 2026**

Carlton County Historical Society (CCHS) is dedicated to preserving the unique history of Carlton County including the Fond du Lac reservation. We collect artifacts, record notable events, and gather the countless individual stories left behind by our ancestors and neighbors. We are proud to serve Carlton County in the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the history of the county. ***We Learn to Remember!***

The CCHS Local Women's History Affinity Group tells accurate and compelling stories illustrating how crucial women and women's labor have been to our region's formation, development, and survival. This Women's History Affinity Group aims to enhance our understanding of women's place in local history and celebrate connections between their lives and ours.

Local Women's History Essay Contest Topic: *Write about a local female who has influenced you in your past or present and/or a female who you believe will, or has, positively influenced the local community. Your subject can be living or deceased.*

Essay Contest Submission Process: Your essay submission must include: YOUR NAME, USPS MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE, EMAIL ADDRESS, AGE, GRADE, and SCHOOL NAME at the **bottom** of your last page (this information will be redacted prior to being submitted to judges).

- Email your essay and works cited page (if applicable) to Deborah Winchell at djl243@cornell.edu. Please include in your email's **Subject Line: CCHS Essay Submission**

Essay Contest Deadline: Submit your essay to Deborah Winchell at djl243@cornell.edu by **February 25, 2026, 11:59 pm**.

Eligibility: **Carlton** County and Fond du Lac Reservation high school students in grades 11 and 12 who attend a public or private school (including charter and alternative-learning programs) or who are home-schooled in Carlton County and Fond du Lac Reservation.

Awarding of Winner: The Award will be given to the Essay Contest Winner on April 30, 2026, at the Spring 2026 Local Women's History Event to be held at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The event is honoring our retiring CCHS Executive Director, Carol Klitzke. An announcement will be made in the Carlton County Historical Society Newsletter and on its website. A news release to local media outlets will share information about the winner and their essay. The winner will be announced prior to April 30, 2026

Essay Requirements: Entries that do not conform to all the following requirements may be disqualified:

- **Format:** Use MLA formatting, with no spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors. Use Times New Roman font, 12-point. Double-space the essay with one" margins on the top, bottom, right, and left. Place the Essay Title on the first page, top center, and include page numbers.
- **Length:** **The** essay must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words. State the number of words used at the end of your essay text like this: Word **Count** _____.
 - Word Count does not include content from a works-cited page.

- **Originality:** All entries must be original works by the entrant in English or Ojibwemowin. If your essay is written in Ojibwemowin, please include a second copy in English for the judges. Plagiarism, which includes the use of third-party poetry, song lyrics, characters, or another person's universe, *without written permission* or *credited quotation*, will result in disqualification.
- **Generative AI:** AI cannot be used to draft any portion of the essay, or the entry will be disqualified. AI is also an inappropriate resource to cite, although AI may be used to identify reputable sources that the writer cites.
- **Judging Criteria - 100 Total Points Possible**
 1. Position Analysis (30 points). Your essay must state your position *why* the woman you selected will be influential for future generations. Your position must be clearly stated, well-reasoned, and well-focused.
 2. Support for your Position (40 points). Your position should be supported by source materials.
 3. Mechanics (10 points). Your essay must contain no grammar, spelling, punctuation, or capitalization errors, and include appropriate and varied word choices.
 4. Organization and Form (20 points): Your essay should be well organized and include a clear introduction, a discussion portion with supporting analysis, and a clear conclusion. Your essay must follow the requirements for format and length.

TIPS: You are encouraged to have a writing, language, or history teacher review and critique your essay prior to submission. You can also request a review from a skilled author who is a member of the Local Women's History Group. This author is not one of the essay contest judges. Please contact Deborah Winchell (djl243@cornell.edu) if you would like to take advantage of this assistance. She will share your draft with an author, who will use Track Changes to make suggestions.

If you'd like ideas on a local woman to write about, visit or call the Carlton County Historical Society.

- **Fee:** There is no fee for participating in the Essay Contest.
- **Prizes:** The CCHS Local Women's History Affinity Group will award scholarships to the First Place Winner for a \$500 Scholarship. Prizewinners will be contacted by April 10, 2026, and the award will be given on April 30, 2026, at CCHS Director Klitze's retirement party.
- **Media Release:** The prizewinner must sign a media/photo release form, and if the winner is under the age of eighteen, the form must be co-signed by the student's parent/guardian.
- **Presence at CCHS Local Women's History Spring Event** at the Cloquet Forestry Center is suggested but not required. However, we do look forward to congratulating the Essay Contest Winners and awarding their prizes in person. There is no cost for the winner to attend the event.
- **Notification to Non-Winners:** A note will be sent to all entrants who are not selected to thank them for their essay submission.