



**STATE PRESIDENT'S PINS
VERONICA WOOD, PDP
102B West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527
508-865-1467
phoenixlady13.14@gmail.com**

We'll be flying with the eagle this year as Madam President, Mary Christian is "Soaring to Higher Expectations" for her special project,

***MEDIC NOW FOUNDATION
BREAKING BARRIERS IN MILITARY HEALTHCARE***

Anyone needing pins will find me at the Convention Fund table during this year. Individual pins are \$3.00 each.

Pins are available for purchase and also on consignment. Checks are to be made payable to VFW Aux. Dept. of MA.

Thank you for your support of this annual Department project.

**STATE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT
JOSEPHINE REEVES
3 St. John's Road
Worcester, MA 01603
508-333-8487
638jor@gmail.com**



Medic Now Foundation (MNF) is a 501(c)(3) charity founded in 2017 by Michael Duggan, who with the support of a dynamic Board of Directors, is determined to ease the burden of out-of-pocket costs for Healthcare for veterans and their families. In addition, they are trying to expedite Healthcare access so that veterans can receive medical attention when and where they need it.

This project will be conducted jointly with the Department of Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Throughout the year, I will be selling red polo shirts with an eagle holding a red and a yellow rose in its talons (which is Mary's symbol.) The proceeds of each shirt sold will go to the MEDIC NOW FOUNDATION and will be credited to each Auxiliary towards year-end awards. On the next page, please find an order form for your use. Submit it with your check to Department Treasurer, Betty Rosa.

Additional donations to the State President's Special Project will be most welcomed and appreciated.

I hope to achieve 100% participation in this project once again. Will you and your Auxiliary help me succeed?

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
VFW AUXILIARY

2023-2024

STATE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT SHIRT ORDER FORM

Emblem is an eagle in flight. Above the eagle it will read: VFW AUXILIARY

Below: MASSACHUSETTS

These are RED polo shirts in both Men's and Women's sizing.

Cost for sizes Small through Extra Large - \$25.00 each

Sizes 2X through 4X - \$30.00 each

Name _____ Post/Aux. # _____

Address _____

City/State _____



Men's Sizes: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ Number @ \$25 = \$ _____

2X _____ 3X _____ 4X _____ Number @ \$30 = \$ _____

Women's Sizes: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ Number @ \$25 = \$ _____

2X _____ 3X _____ 4X _____ Number @ \$30 = \$ _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____ (A fee for postage will apply if mailed.)

Make checks payable to: Dept of MA VFW Auxiliary

Mail to: Betty Rosa, Dept Sec-Treas, 93 Church St., Fairhaven, MA 02719-3703

**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
SHEILA LAYTON, PDP
99 Wagon Hill Road
Marlborough, MA 01752
508-251-0504
sjlpsp9899@comcast.net**

Our VFW Auxiliary year has just begun, but our veterans and active duty soldiers are looking to us for our support in various ways.

Military Assistance Program allows funds for Posts and Auxiliaries to sponsor send-offs and returns, so please donate to this. It helps them feel that we support them. **Unmet Needs** helps in an emergency when a loved one is deployed and an emergency happens. Families can get up to \$1,500 to help for heating and mortgage payments, rent, etc., when they can't afford it. There's the **Sports Clips "Help a Hero Scholarship"** of up to \$5,000 for qualified veterans and service members. These are all under the **VFW Veterans & Military Support Program.**

National Veterans Service (NVS) assists veterans, service members and There are trained VFW Service Officers nationwide available to help navigate the Veterans Affairs system.

Donations to both of these are to be sent to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, 9th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Attention: NVS or Veterans & Military Support.

We must inform people about Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness and give out information on where to call for help, such as the Veterans Service Crisis Line (988 and press1) because we lose too many through depression and more.

There are also mental support and resources to remove the stigma and any misunderstanding about mental awareness. Information distributed at the Kickoff will help you direct those in need. This program gives us many ways to support our veterans, active duty military and their families.

I look forward to seeing all of the work I know your Auxiliaries do. Thank you in advance, and God bless.

Beth Barrett, PDP
Website/ZOOM Administrator
25 Hatch Street
Everett, MA 02149
beth.sobel@comcast.net
617-389-3859

www.vfwauxma.org

HOME

ABOUT

PROGRAMS

RESOURCES

NEWS

CONTACT

The Department of Massachusetts VFW Auxiliary website has been up and running for 2 years – Have you visited the site to see what valuable information is available to you? If not, you are truly missing out on a source of information that links you to National and Department information and resources and every form you will need to have a successful program year.

Just type the website name, www.vfwauxma.org, in your browser search bar and hit enter. You do **not** need a login as a member – all information is accessible to you by clicking on the page and selecting what you want to see from the dropdown list that pops up.

Website Contents

HOME PAGE

Welcome to the Dept. of Mass VFW Auxiliary
State President's Theme
Announcements of upcoming meetings and important information highlights
News highlights including current Membership standings

ABOUT

ABOUT US – general information about the VFW Auxiliary
MISSION – VFW Auxiliary Mission Statement
OFFICERS – National President's and Dept. Officers' name, photo, and bio and name and photo of District Presidents
PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS – a listing by year of all who have served as Dept. President
JOIN US – eligibility rules and membership application

PROGRAMS

Information on the National Programs and the State Presidents Special Project with links to National Guidebooks, contest applications, and information for each program
List of Current Dept. Chairmen for each program
Content of the Program Kick Off Books (when available)
Points for the Auxiliary of the Year Contest

RESOURCES

DEPT. OF MASS VFW WEBSITE access
DISTRICT INFO – A map of where each District is located in the state
A listing of Auxiliaries by District, address, President's name and day and time of meeting
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION – how to request the Dept. Newsletter
MISC. RESOURCES – Cancer grant application
Guide to using technology
VFW Foundation Grant information
Tips for the Auxiliary Secretary
VFW Auxiliary Treasurer's Guide

RESOURCES (cont.) MISC. RESOURCES –
(cont.)

990 e-postcard user guide from IRS
IRS Form 8822B (to file when Treasurer changes)
Relief Fund Guide
Audit Form
How to print Dues Renewal Letter in MALTA

REPORTS – Period 1 Reporting forms by Program will be added after Kick Off
Period 2 will be added after Mid-Winter Conference
Year End Report Forms – Chaplain Report of Deceased Members
RU Healthy Checklist
Auxiliary of the Year Extra Credit Form
2023-2024 National Program Award Entry Forms

NEWS

CALENDAR – tentative Dept. dates for meetings and events
NEWS – all Dept. mailings and Newsletters
Current District Membership Standings (including deceased members)
Any information of interest to all members

CONTACT

Have a question? Need information? Cannot find your Roster! Send an email through the website and we will pass it on to the appropriate person to get you what you need

ZOOM

In March 2020 when the pandemic lockdown began, our Department established an account with ZOOM in order to give our members the ability to attend and participate in all Department meetings either through computer or by telephone access. Going forward, our primary meetings – Council of Administration meetings and Conferences – are scheduled to be held in person but we are maintaining the ZOOM account for certain Department meetings and for member access when WiFi is available in the location that we are holding the meeting. Watch the Department mailings for instructions on how to obtain the ZOOM link when provided.

Please contact me with questions about the website or ZOOM or to share any suggestions for content on the website.

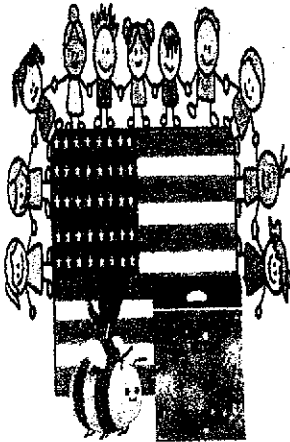
Cheryl Brown-Greene

Youth Activities

BEE Excited, BEE Involved, BEE Ready

to work with our youth!

I am honored and excited to serve as your Youth Activities Chairman. By "Soaring To Higher Expectations" let's work together to provide this year's Youth Activities Programs from National Ambassador Joyce Caldwell. The youth are our future! Let's share our knowledge and love of this country as we help develop our future leaders.



This year's programs and activities

Patriotism through Literacy

Promote and support reading among youth while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. This is a great way for our youth to learn about America, the importance of our flag and its history. Consider volunteering to read to classrooms or youth groups, donate books to classrooms, schools or local libraries. Consider donating a book in honor of our National President Carla Martinez.



This book is a gift from

In honor of
Carla Martinez
2023-2024 National President
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

R.A.P. Cards (Random Acts of Patriotism)

For youth who display civic pride, thank veterans, and show respect to the flag, these cards are a great way to let them know how this spirit is appreciated.. Use these cards to give out to youth demonstrating patriotism.



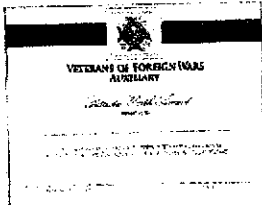
Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! - National Contest - An individual National Anthem Singing Contest open to Youth Grades K-12 at the time of local entry. There are two grade divisions K-8 and 9-12. Deadlines for entries Auxiliary - March 31, Department April 15, National Headquarters - May 5.



Illustrating America - National Art Contest

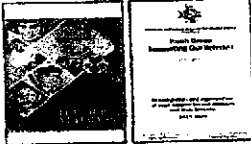
Open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades K-8. It will be judged on patriotic themes and technique. Deadlines for entries Auxiliary - March 31, Department April 15, National Headquarters - May 5.





Patriotic Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members and their families.



Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations

Youth groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families.



Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage youth in any one of the YA programs.



More detailed information and program ideas can be found in the Kick-off booklet and on my website <https://tinyurl.com/YouthActivitiesMA> or contact me email cbrowngreene57@gmail.com cell 617-306-6277

or

Available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities

Looking forward to an awesome year working with you as we support our Youth!



Youth Activities

What will you need to have a successful year with youth activities? *It's in the bag!* BEE Excited, BEE Involved, BEE Ready to work with our youth. Make sure to fill your bag with these activities!

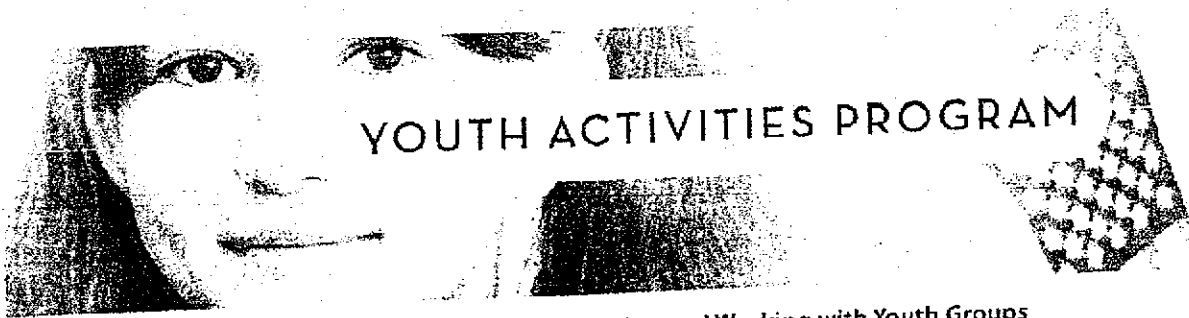


- Youth Activities Program Information
- National Youth Activities Website

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/>

- Patriotism Through Literacy**
 - Suggested Book List
 - Book Donation Labels
 - Best Promotion of Program Award Form**
- Youth Contest - Get Excited For the Red White and Blue - Forms
 - Program Information
 - Entry Form
 - Judging Sheet
 - Media Release Form
 - Contest Fliers
- Youth Contest - Illustrating America
 - Program Information
 - Entry Form
 - Judging Sheet
 - Media Release Form and Facebook posts
- Youth Recognition
 - Patriotic Youth Awards
 - Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
 - Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Cards**
 - Best Promotion of Program Award Form*
- Working with our Youth
 - 10 Tips for Working with Youth
- MA Youth Activities Chairman Website <https://tinyurl.com/YouthActivitiesMA>
- Your Ideas, Activities, and Participation!**

*Each Auxiliary will receive a starter Youth Activities bag that I will give to your District President. See your District President as you BEE-gin your Youth Activities program for the 2023-2024 year.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations • Patriotic Youth Award
Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! • Patriotism through Literacy • Illustrating America

The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities and veterans. We have a new generation of veterans who need the support of family, friends and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad. Today's youth are the future of our nation.

Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage youth in any one of our Programs, including activities to honor our veterans or assist our service members and their families.

Take advantage of the service aspects some youth groups require. Many youth-focused organizations require various types of community service or activities to earn merits in their units. College-bound seniors earn school credit for some of these same activities. Remember that involving youth in service to veterans in conjunction with your Auxiliary can bring new membership to your Auxiliary. When youth and the whole family are included, members feel more invested in your Auxiliary. Sponsorship of a youth group can create a bright future for your Auxiliary, veterans and the community as a whole.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations

The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way for Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans, and assisting service members and their families. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Patriotic Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members and their families. A fillable, printable version of The Patriotic Youth Award is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

Open to youth in grades K-12 at the time of local entry and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. The Department first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Please see entry form in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities for eligibility requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines:

Entries received by:

Participating Auxiliary – March 31

Department – April 15

National Headquarters – May 5

Contest Rules:

- Video of contestant's solo vocal performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" must be recorded between July 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.
- Performance must be saved as a YouTube video.
- Contestant may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- Contestant may sing in the arrangement and style of their choice.
- Contestant may **NOT** change the words.

Patriotism through Literacy

Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free (use your local library) initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning.

Benefits of Patriotism through Literacy:

- Teach kids about various times in American history. Promote empathy and expose students to experiences unlike their own.
- Foster a love of books that leads to a lifetime of learning.
- Spend time with kids in the community in new, creative ways.

- Help youth gain better understanding of American history through nonfiction.

How can I participate in Patriotism through Literacy?

- Volunteer to read a historical or creative nonfiction picture book to kids at your local library.
- Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries.
- Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (stickers, pins) for number of books or hours read.
- Run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors at your Post Home.
- Invite an author of historical fiction or creative nonfiction to do a book talk/signing in your area.

Reading has many benefits, including improved grammar and writing skills, improved focus and concentration, and it helps children to understand and share the feelings of others; reading stretches our imagination. As Dr. Seuss said, "Reading can take you places you have never been before."

Illustrating America

Open to any student in grades K-8 by the March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible. National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous National winner.

Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. The Department first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

There are National awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. The first, second and third place entry in each grade division will be displayed at National Convention. Please see the student brochure and entry form in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines:

Entries received by:

Local Auxiliary – March 31

Department – April 15

National Headquarters – May 5

Contest Rules:

- Art must be two-dimensional.
- Art must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy paper.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.
- **Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted.**

Involve Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs

Youth play such an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary Programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans.

Teach youth about Auxiliary efforts to:

- Respect and take pride in our country.
- Serve hospitalized veterans.
- Elect leaders who appreciate our military.
- Pass legislation that secures benefits for our veterans. And many other worthy efforts!

Project Examples

- Visiting and volunteering in VA and non-VA facilities.
- Raising funds for a community veterans memorial.
- Marching in patriotic holiday parades.
- Volunteering to help veterans and service members and their families with yard work or household repairs. Sending cards or small gifts to the VFW National Home to support families.
- Planning a card- and letter-writing campaign in local schools to send mail to our troops overseas or veterans in VA facilities.
- Organizing assembly, collection and delivery of care packages for troops.
- Teaching computer skills to veterans.

Youth Group Examples for VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship

- Youth sports teams
- Church youth groups
- After-school programs
- Youth-focused organizations
- School clubs
- Home-school associations
- Youth community service groups
- Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils
- Service learning and civic engagement departments in high schools and colleges

Make Your Auxiliary Accessible to Today's Youth

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social media as teaching and information tools have natural collaborative elements allowing our youth to view and comment on each other's activities. They are tweeting on Twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram and subscribing to YouTube channels. If you don't know what any of this is – **LEARN**.

POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS.

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube
Pinterest | Instagram | Snapchat

Get online and see what's new!

Visit MALTA Member Resources for publicity tips, social media guidelines and other helpful information.

Patriotism Through Literacy

Book Suggestions

Note: grade/age levels are suggested based on publisher's guidelines, school curriculums and reading/comprehension levels, not rules. Interest levels & ability vary by student. Updated: 2022

Pre-K-Kindergarten

John, Paul, George, and Ben by Lane Smith
I Am series (*I Am Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart, etc.*) by Brad Metzger
The White House: A Pop-Up Book of Our Nation's Home by Robert Sabuda
Red, White, and BOOM! by Lee Wardlaw
America the Beautiful by Katharine Lee Bates
God Bless America by Irving Berlin, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
The Scrambled States of America by Laurie Keller
This Land is Your Land by Woodie Guthrie & Kathy Jakobsen
Wow, America! by Robert Neubecker
My Little Golden Book about Kamala Harris by Rajani LaRocca
My Little Golden Book about The White House by Jen Arena
Sesame Street: Elmo Doodle Dandy (A Little Golden Book) by Naomi Kleinberg
Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops by Jill Biden
My Red Balloon & Dandelions by Eve Bunting
Blue Sky, White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus & Kadir Nelson
A is for America: A Patriotic Alphabet Book by Tanya Lee Stone

Grades 1-2

Creative Non-Fiction:

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag by Sarah L. Thomson
What the Big Deal About First Ladies? by Ruby Shamir
Harriet's Ruffled Feathers by Joy McCullough
Turning Pages: My Life Story by Sonia Sotomayor
Rescue & Jessica by Jessica Kensky & Patrick Downes
I Could Do That: How Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote by Linda White
Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson
Tuesday Tucks Me In by Luis Carlos Montalvan
They Called Her Molly Pitcher by Anne Rockwell
Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki
Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport
Ben Franklin: Wit & Wisdom from A-Z by Alan Schroeder

Educational/Americana & Historical Fiction:

Happy Birthday, America by Mary Pope Osborne
Apple Pie 4th of July by Janet S. Wong
If I Were President by Catherine Stier
Tricking the Tallyman by Jacqueline Davis
Ellie May on President's Day by Hillary Homzie
This is a Rope: A Story from the Great Migration by Jacqueline Woodson
The Flag We Love by Pam Munoz Ryan

Grades 3-4

Historical Fiction:

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
I Survived series (*Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor, D-Day, 9/11, etc.*) by Lauren Tarshis
American Girl original series & *American Girl History's Mysteries* by various authors
If You Were a Kid During the American Revolution by Will Mara
The Captive by Joyce Hansen
Magic Treehouse Mysteries series by Mary Pope Osborne
Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh by Uma Krishnaswami
Capital Mysteries series by Ron Roy

Creative Non-Fiction:

Magic Treehouse Fact Trackers series by Mary Pope Osborne
A is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American Women by Lynne Cheney
Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz
Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the Fastest Woman... by Kathleen Krull
She Persisted series (*Maya Lin, Maria Tallchief, Patsy Mink, etc.*) by various authors
A Splash of Red: The Life & Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant
Who Was/What Was series, (*George Washington, the White House, Sacagawea, etc.*)
Little Legends series by Vashti Harrison
The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and her Tribute to Veterans by Barbara E. Walsh

Educational Americana:

America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven
Our 50 States: A Family Adventure Across America by Lynne Cheney
We the Kids by David Catrow
I Have a Dream by Martin Luther King, Jr., illustrated by Kadir Nelson
We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart by Walter Dean Myers

Grades 5-6

Historical Fiction:

Towers Falling and *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park
Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper
Show Me a Sign by Ann-Clare LeZotte
Red, White & Whole by Rajani LaRocca
My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
Worth by Alexandria LaFaye
The Year of the Boar & Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord
One Crazy Summer trilogy by Rita Williams Garcia
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Nine, Ten, a September 11th Story by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Planet Earth is Blue by Nicole Panteleakos
The True History of Lyndie B. Hawkins by Gail Shephard
Bud, Not Buddy and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Creative Non-Fiction:

Stamped (for Kids) by Sonja Cherry Paul, Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi
Rocket to the Moon by Don Brown
History Smashers series by Kate Messner
It's Up to You, Abe Lincoln by Leila and Tom Hirschfeld

Grades 7-8

Historical Fiction:

Dear America series by various authors
Home is With Our Family by Joyce Hansen
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata
Fever 1793 and *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar
Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson
Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz
The Notorious Benedict Arnold... by Steve Sheinkin
All the Stars Denied by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Non-Fiction & Memoir:

Amelia Lost: The Life & Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math by Jeannine Atkins
Lifting As We Climb by Evette Dionne
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings by Margarita Engel
Hidden Figures: The American Dream & the Untold Story... by Margot Lee Shetterly
What Was the Continental Congress? and *Clara Barton* by Candice Ransom

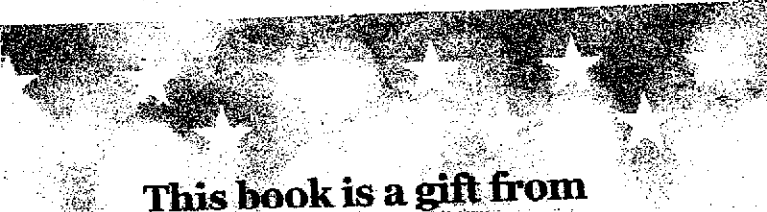
Grades 9-12

Historical Fiction:

Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution by Avi
Butterfly Yellow by Thanhha Lai
Girls Like Us by Randi Pink
So Many Beginnings by Bethany Morrow
The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee
We Are Not Free by Traci Chee
The Memory of Things by Gae Polisner
Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malindo Lo
A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tehera Mafi
Fly Girl by Sherri L. Smith

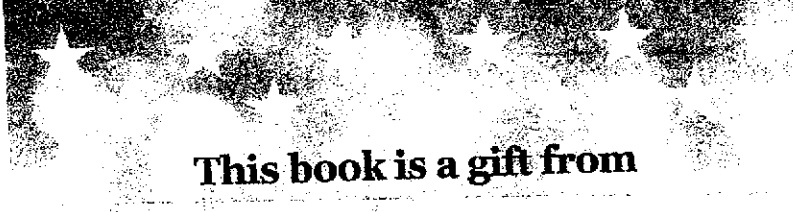
Non-Fiction & Memoir:

Pure Grit: How American WWII Nurses Survived Battle... by Mary Cronk Farrell
Chester Nez: A Navajo Codetalker's Story by Joseph Bruchac
Code Talker Stories by Lauren Tohe
Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom... by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
Loving Vs. Virginia by Patricia Hruby Powell
Stamped by Jason Reynolds
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson
Fly Girls: Forgotten Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII by P. O'Connell Pearson
Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space by Lynn Sherr
Black Birds in the Sky by Brandy Colbert
They Call Us Enemy by George Takei
Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow



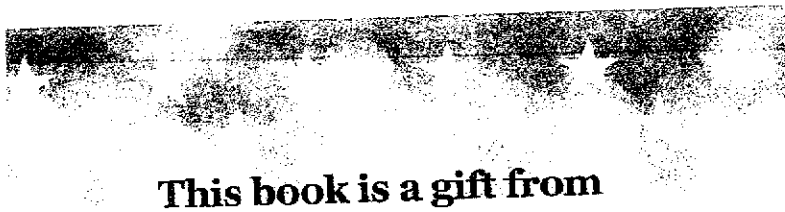
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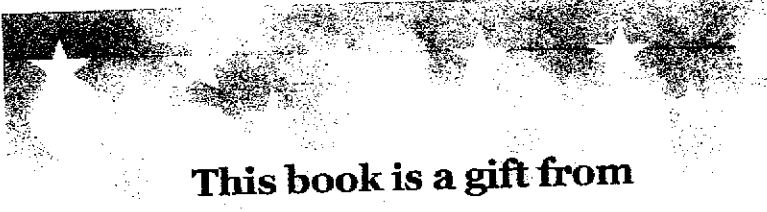
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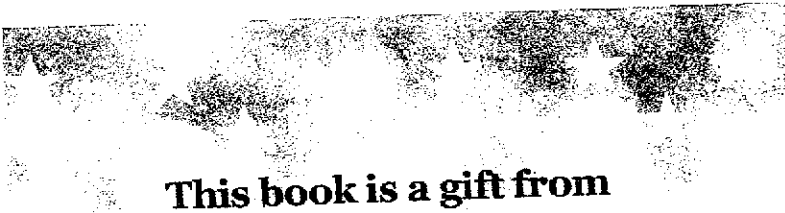
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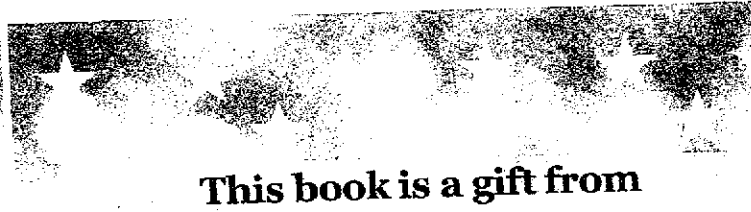
This book is a gift from

**In honor of
Carla Martinez
2023-2024 National President
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary**



This book is a gift from

**In honor of
Carla Martinez
2023-2024 National President
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary**

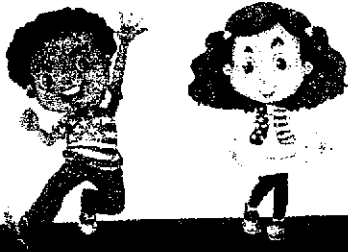


This book is a gift from

**In honor of
Carla Martinez
2023-2024 National President
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary**



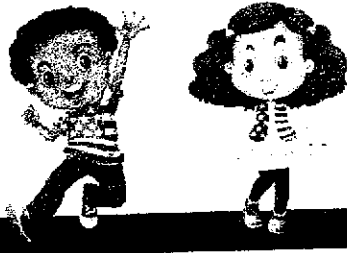
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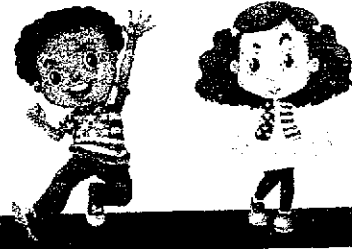
NICE R.A.P.!



NICE R.A.P.!



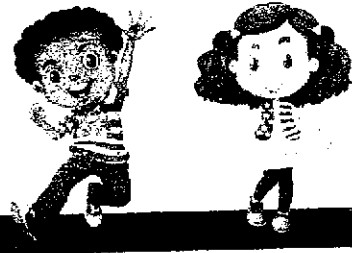
NICE R.A.P.!



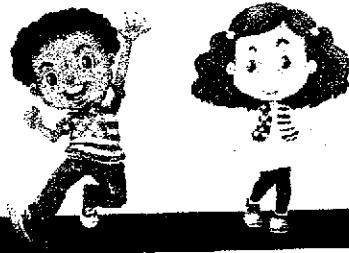
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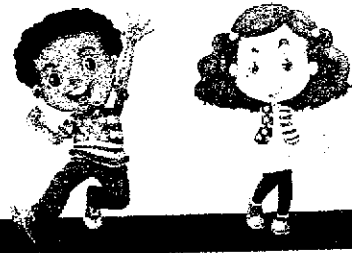
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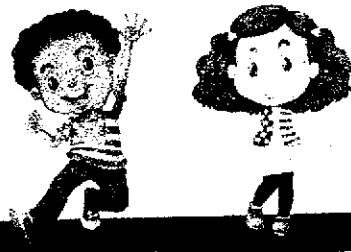
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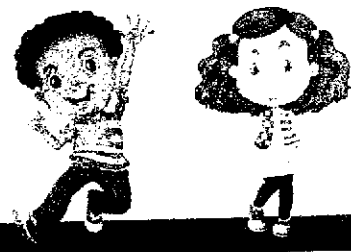
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NICE R.A.P.!



NICE R.A.P.!

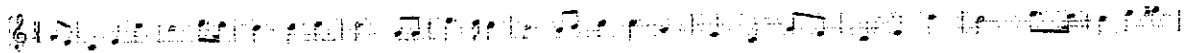




Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest for eligible students in grades K-12 **2023-2024**

A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner



Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value.

Contest Eligibility

- Open to students in grades **K-12** by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 20 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous *Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!* students may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous National winner.

Contest Rules

- One entry per contestant.
- Video of contestant's solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner must be recorded between **July 1, 2023 and March 31 2024**.
- Video must be a recorded live unedited version.
- Student shall state name, age and grade level prior to vocal performance.
- Student may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- Student may sing in the arrangement and genre of their choice.
- Student may **NOT** change the words.
- Student may **NOT** lip sync.
- Complete and sign contest entry form. Parent/Guardian signature required on entry form.
- Video must be saved on a media platform of the VFW Auxiliary choice and submitted with a completed entry form for judging.

VFW Auxiliary National Awards

Grades K-8

First place: \$500 gift card
Second place: \$300 gift card
Third place: \$200 gift card

Grades 9-12

First place: \$500 gift card
Second place: \$300 gift card
Third place: \$200 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected or poor-quality video entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

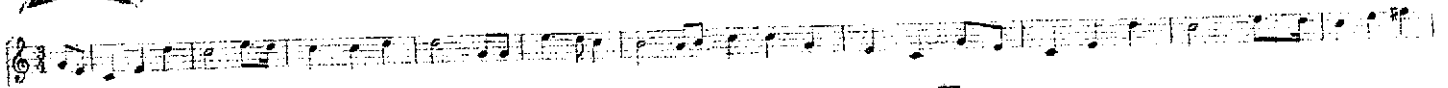
- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each grade division from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners from each grade division due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.
- **July/August:** Students will be notified of winners via the email address provided on the entry form. First through third place winners named in each of the two grade divisions on VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters social media pages and shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.



Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest for eligible students in grades K-12

A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner



2023-2024 Contest Entry Form

Please print or complete fillable form at vfwauxiliary.org
This form must be submitted with the video entry at all levels of judging.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

**I certify that all the contest requirements have been met and that I am the sole author of the attached/enclosed video entry. By entering the contest, I grant the VFW Auxiliary royalty-free rights to use, edit, share, publish and broadcast my contest video entry for the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! national anthem singing contest for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary. I understand the video will not be sold but will remain the property of the VFW Auxiliary.*

Parent/Guardian Signature: * _____ Date: _____

Sponsoring/Participating VFW Auxiliary Contact or VFW Auxiliary Department Contact information:

Representative Name: _____ Representative Phone: _____
Representative email: _____

This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.
National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winners.
Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

Please check the appropriate grade division.

This first place entry is for grad division: **Grade K-8** _____ **OR** **Grade 9-12** _____

March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

April 15: One winner in each grade division from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.

Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Final Level - Department first-place entry must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by **May 5** or it will be disqualified.
ATTN: Program Awards Administrator

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

POST # [Insert Post Number]

For more information, contact:

[Contact name]

[Contact email address]

[Contact phone number]

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VFW Auxiliary Announces Kick-Off of National Anthem Singing Contest

VFW Auxiliary [insert Name/Post Number] is excited to announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! Local youth in grades K-12 can showcase their talent, display their patriotism and express their creativity while competing for their share of \$2,000 in national awards.

Contestants must submit a video of their solo vocal performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The video must be recorded between July 1, (year) and March 31, (year). Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value.

Contestants begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to Department (state) competition. The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. The Department (state) first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Winners will be notified via the email address provided on the winners' entry form.

The contest is designed to promote patriotism and encourage youth to learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" while displaying their creativity and vocal talent.

Contestant entries must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary [insert Name/Post Number] by March 31, (year). Interested youth, parents/guardians and teachers should contact [insert contact name] at [phone number] or at [email address] for more information.

Visit <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities> for eligibility requirements, contest rules and an entry form.

About the VFW Auxiliary: *The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations and our members are the relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict. We have nearly 470,000 members representing all 50 states who volunteer millions of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel and their families.*

We are a voice for veterans on Capitol Hill and are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. We are one of the top 10 providers of volunteer hours in the VA medical system. Every year, members fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families. We also provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. With more than 3,600 Auxiliaries, there is likely one in your area working to improve the lives of America's uncommon heroes. Learn more at www.vfwauxiliary.org.



Facebook Posts for VFW Auxiliary Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue National Anthem Singing Contest

Post #1

Spread patriotism through song! Youth in grades K-12 are encouraged to enter the VFW Auxiliary national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! Contestants may sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the arrangement and genre of their choice: rock, pop, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, country, classical and other genres are accepted. However, they can't change the words! The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12 with one national winner in each grade division receiving a \$500 prize. Entries are due to a VFW Auxiliary by March 31, (year). Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities> for contest eligibility, rules, national awards and an entry form.

Post #2

O Say Can Youth Sing? The VFW Auxiliary national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! is an opportunity for youth to share their talent, display their patriotism and express their creativity while singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." They can also win one of two \$500 national prizes! Video entries and signed entry forms are due to a VFW Auxiliary by March 31, (year). Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities> for contest eligibility, rules, national awards and an entry form.

Post #3

Calling all youth in grades K-12 with a passion for patriotism. You're invited to participate in the VFW Auxiliary national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! All genres, instruments and backing tracks are welcome for this solo vocal performance contest of "The Star-Spangled Banner." You could win one of two \$500 national prizes! Video entries and signed entry forms are due to a VFW Auxiliary by March 31, (year). Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities> for contest eligibility, rules, national awards and an entry form.

Post #4

Share your talent, display your patriotism and express your creativity. Enter the VFW Auxiliary national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! Youth in grades K-12 are invited to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the genre and arrangement of their choice – they just can't change the words! The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12 with one national winner in each grade division receiving a \$500 prize. Video entries and signed entry forms are due to a VFW Auxiliary by March 31, (year). Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities> for contest eligibility, rules, national awards and an entry form.



Judge's Scoring Sheet
Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue
 U.S. National Anthem Singing Contest



Contestant:

Grade Division (circle one): **K-8** **9-12**

Criteria

Vocal Ability: 40 points possible

Vocal Technique (pitch, range, intonation, tone quality and breath support)
 Rhythm & Tempo (voice in relation to music)

Vocal Ability Total |

Mastery of Lyrics: 30 points possible

No errors or lapses in memory
 Clear pronunciation of words

Mastery of Lyrics Total |

Originality/Interpretation: 15 points possible

Arrangement appropriate for selected genre

Originality/Interpretation Total |

Entertainment Value: 15 points possible

Reaction to the overall performance

Entertainment Value Total |

Total All Points |

Judge's Comments:

Judge's Signature:

Date:



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest

An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries if matted must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Do not frame art.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", not including mat larger than 18" in any direction.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- If the American Flag is used, it **DOES NOT** need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or numbers of stars and stripes.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest application
- Entry will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.
- Coloring Sheets, digital art, photography and jewelry are **NOT** accepted.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades K-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 15 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner.

Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
 - **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
 - **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
 - **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form.
 - **August:** First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- Contestant's name will be returned to address on entry form.



VFW Auxiliary National

Illustrating America Art Contest

An art contest for eligible students in grades K-8
2023-2024

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

**I hereby grant permission of the artwork by the student listed above to be published in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner of one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the student listed above.*

Parent/Guardian signature: * _____

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

Sponsoring/Participating VFW Auxiliary Contact or VFW Auxiliary Department Contact information:

Representative Name: _____ Representative Phone: _____

Representative email: _____

This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first place winners.
Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

Please check the appropriate grade division.

This first-place entry is for: Grade K-2 _____ OR Grade 3-5 _____ OR Grade 6-8 _____

March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: One winner from each grade division in each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.

Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: Final Level - Department winning entries in each grade division must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or they will be disqualified.

July/August: Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winners in each grade division named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

September: All art will be returned to address on entry form.

Judge's Scoring Sheet

Illustrating America

Criteria within the three categories can each receive up to 10 points, with 10 being the best.

Entrant:

Grade Division (circle one): **K-2** **3-5** **6-8**



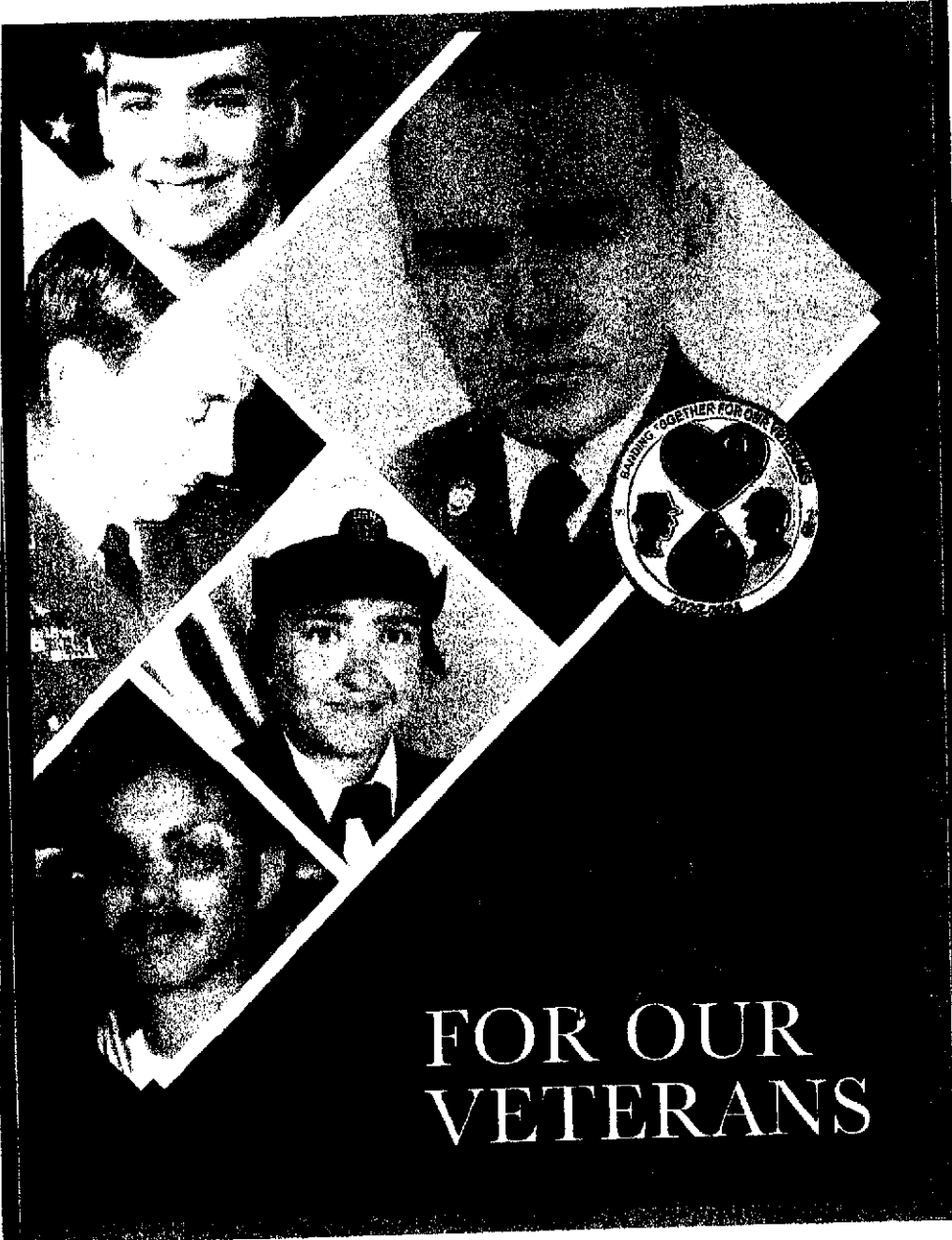
Criteria

Patriotic Expression	
Total of 30 points possible	Points
1. Concept	
2. Presentation	
3. Patriotism Expressed	
Patriotic Expression Total	
Content	
Total of 30 points possible	Points
1. Clarity of idea	
2. Elicitation of emotion	
3. Can it stand on its own	
Content Total	
Design	
Total of 40 points possible	Points
1. Use of space	
2. Balance	
3. Creativity	
4. Total impact of work	
Design Total	
Total All Points	

Judge's Comments:

Judge's Signature:

Date:



**FOR OUR
VETERANS**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Auxiliary**

**Youth Group
Supporting Our Veterans**

presented to

**In recognition and appreciation
of your support for our veterans
and their families.**

2023-2024

Carla J. Martinez
National President

Carla J. Martinez
National Secretary

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Patriotic Youth Award

PRESENTED TO

FOR YOUR EXEMPLARY DISPLAY OF PATRIOTISM.
YOUR ACTIONS AND DEEDS ARE APPRECIATED AND COMMENDED
BY THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

DATE

Need Youth Activity ideas, want to see what other auxiliaries are doing, need information from National or the department, want to contact me visit my website

<https://tinyurl.com/YouthActivitiesMA>

YouthActivitiesMA

Home Programs ▾ Program Ideas Auxiliary Showcase ▾ About Me

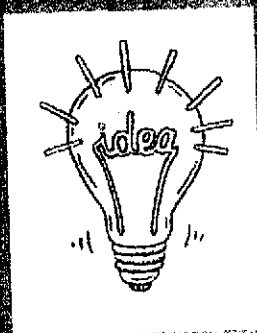
Youth Activities

Cheryl Brown-Greene,

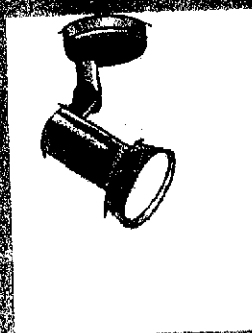
Youth Activities Chairman, Dept. of MA



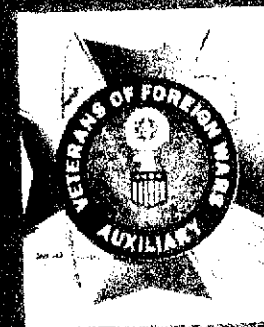
Programs



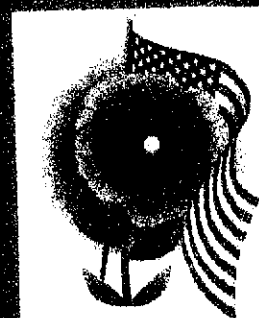
Program Ideas



Auxiliary



National YA



Dept. of MA
Auxiliary



About Me

10 Tips for Working with Youth

When working with youth, it is important to consider their safety and needs. We would like to offer these tips and resources so that you can make sure that all youth you encounter have the best experience possible.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

1. Consider taking Youth Protection training. Many organizations working with youth provide and require training. One of the best known is done by Boy Scouts. You do not need to be a member or even involved with the program in order to take their free online training. Find it here: <http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>
2. Always respect the time commitments of youth. They are very busy. Be clear about when an event or project starts and how long it will go for. Parents also very much appreciate it when their child is finished at the stated time.
3. Parents should always be welcome to stay and take part in the activity.
4. No matter the project or event, make sure that proper safety measures are taken for everyone involved. Also, be sure that activities or projects are age appropriate.
5. Be extremely conscious of the location where you bring or meet the youths.
6. Do not smoke, drink or use drugs around them.
7. If you are taking youth somewhere other than the Post home or a school, consider getting permission slips from every parent, and make sure the parents understand that the children may be riding in personal vehicles.
8. Receive training from your local Child Abuse Prevention Council or Child Protective Center on the Mandated Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Laws in your State for those working with children.
9. Find out if you need to have individuals working with youth/children fingerprinted before working with youth. There may be laws in your state.
10. Maintain and model healthy boundaries with children - be a role model. Remember it is never appropriate to display acts of violence or abuse around or towards children.

Remember that it only takes a minute to make a difference in the life of a child. There are lots of small, positive things we can all do to help protect and nurture our children that only take a minute. A few words of praise and encouragement to a child, listening carefully to what a child has to say, showing a child you care, all are simple actions that added together have been shown to have a profound impact on a child's life. In these very real ways, we can all support children and strengthen families.



Youth Activities

Auxiliary Award No. 1

Entry Form • 2023-2024 Program Year

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy **and** utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.).
 - **Citation** to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism through Literacy **and** utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). Citations will be mailed directly to the participating Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
 - **Citation and \$25** to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism through Literacy **and** utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after VFW Auxiliary National Convention

Auxiliaries are to send this completed form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2024.

Auxiliary Name: _____ No.: _____

Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event that educated their community about Patriotism through Literacy **and** utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). (E.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

Department Youth Activities Chairman: _____ (signature) Date: _____

April 30, 2024 - The Department Youth Activities Chairman is to sign and send the completed Department winning entry form to National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell for judging.

AND

April 30, 2024 - The Department Youth Activities Chairman must **email** VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Forms sent directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed.