

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Betty Mae Tenney, PDP, Chairman**  
**PO Box 328; Townsend MA 01469**  
**978-597-6495 or 978-665-4026(w)**

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art, Patriot's Pen Essay, and Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contests, which each give young people the opportunity to receive recognition and earn awards at various levels of competition by demonstrating their patriotism through their artistic or writing talents, are all part of our Scholarships Program. The National VFW Auxiliary also provides scholarships for Auxiliary members and adult members of their immediate family through its Continuing Education Scholarship Program. It is the goal of the VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Program to assist students in attaining an education, reaching their full potential, and making their dreams come true.

Let's promote participation in all of these programs by strongly publicizing them within our communities and, in doing so, educating the public about the values of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Announce your Scholarships Programs through social media, in area newspapers, on local cable channels, in area libraries, in the newsletters of area churches and civic groups, on bulletin boards and electric sign boards in public buildings and local businesses, and especially at locations frequented by young people.

The VFW Auxiliary presents one **Continuing Education Scholarship** each year to a selected candidate in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences to assist those who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/ technical school. Only current VFW Auxiliary members, their spouse, daughter, or son with a financial need are eligible to apply. The applicant must be twenty-one years of age or older and the qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one full year prior to the application submission deadline.

To apply for the \$1,250 scholarship, a completed VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship Application form, typed answers on a separate piece of paper to all questions listed on that application, and an essay of 300 words or less describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help them attain these goals must all be mailed directly to the Program Awards Administrator, VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City MO 64111 or emailed to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) with the following subject line: Continuing Education Scholarship Application in time for them to be received no later than 15 February 2025.

**Students** who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school or a home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or are dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools **may enter our youth Scholarships Contests**. 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 at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or over, GED or Adult

Education students, or previous Department winners of one these contests who received a National award in that contest are ineligible to enter that same contest.

Students in grades nine through twelve by the 31 March 2025 deadline **who meet the criteria listed above** should be encouraged to enter an original, two-dimensional art entry done on canvas or paper into our **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other media may be used. Canvas entries should be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board. The piece should not be framed. Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used. It is highly recommended that heavy paper be used to reinforce the back of an entry. The art should be no smaller than 8 inches by 10 inches or larger than 18 inches by 24 inches, including the mat.

Our first place Department winning Young American Creative Patriotic Art piece will be entered into the National VFW Auxiliary competition where scholarships of \$15,000 for first place, \$7,500 for second place, \$3,500 for third place, \$1,500 each for fourth and fifth places, \$1,000 each for sixth and seventh places, and \$500 each for eighth through nineteenth places will be awarded to the winners.

Eligible students in grades nine through twelve should also be encouraged to enter an original, three-dimensional art piece into the separate patriotic art contest called the **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**. The three-dimensional art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc. Entries should be no larger than 18 inches in any direction. The art may not weigh more than 5 pounds.

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest has its own scholarship amounts. The National Awards are \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second place, \$1,000 for third place, and \$500 for fourth place.

Digital art, photography, weapons, art generated by 3-D printer, and jewelry are not acceptable in either patriotic art contest.

If the American Flag is used in the entry in either contest, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code as far as colors, number of stars and stripes, and other pertinent rules of the code. Federal Flag Code information is available at <https://www.military.com/flag-day/us-flag-code.html> .

Each art entry should have been done during the current (2024-2025) school year. Both the proper, completed Official Patriotic Art Contest Scholarship Entry Form bearing information about the artist, the signature of his parent/guardian, the source of the idea for his artwork, and the media used in the entry and a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) must be submitted with the entry. The typed explanation of the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art entry should include the steps taken to create it.

Those selected to be judges of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest or the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest entries on all levels of competition should be

teachers, professionals, and persons knowledgeable about art. Comments of the judges should be attached and forwarded with the art. Each entry will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism expressed; content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; design technique; and total impact of work.

Students entering one or both of the Patriotic Art Contests must submit their entry to a local Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman by Monday, 31 March 2025.

There is no District level of judging for either art scholarship contest. I must receive the winning Auxiliary first place entries no later than 15 April 2025 for them to be included in the Department level of competition. I shall submit our Department first place winning entry in each contest into the National level of competition.

National winning entries in each Patriotic Art Contest will be shown on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**“My Voice in America’s Democracy?” is the 2024-2025 theme of our VFW and VFW Auxiliary Patriot’s Pen Written Essay Competition** which is open to students in grades six through eight who meet the eligibility requirements for all our youth Scholarships contests. This competition is approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Essay contest entries should be typewritten in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or more than 400 words in length (+ or - 5 words max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. The essay must be the contestant’s original work and a product of the contestant’s own thinking. The approach to the Patriot’s Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. Contestants may not identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, their name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) or put their name on their essay. A completed 2024-2025 Official Patriot’s Pen Entry Form should be stapled to the top of the essay. Patriot’s Pen Essay Competition entries should be submitted to the Patriot’s Pen Chairman of a VFW Post no later than midnight on 31 October 2024. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. Patriot’s Pen judging will be based on knowledge of the theme (30%), theme development (35%), and clarity of ideas (35%).

**“Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?” is the 2024-2025 theme of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program.** Students in grades nine through twelve who meet the eligibility requirements for our youth Scholarships contests should be encouraged to enter this wonderful patriotic audio essay competition which is also approved by the NASSP.

To enter the competition students should write and then record their original three-to-five minute (+ or – 5 second max) audio essay on a flash drive or other electronic

device and submit it along with a typed copy of their essay with a completed 2024-2025 Official Voice of Democracy Competition Entry Form attached to a VFW Post by midnight on Thursday, 31 October 2024. An emailed entry form, essay, and attached audio file may be submitted to the VFW Post with prior approval from that Post. The flash drive/USB and typed essay should be labeled with the entrant's name, but the entrant cannot be identified in any way within the recording (including, but not limited to, his name, school, city, state, race, or national origin). No music, singing, poetry, or sound effects are permitted on the recording. Judging of Voice of Democracy entries will be based on originality (30%), content (35%), and delivery (35%).

Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed in either contest.

Rules of both the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Competitions allow a Post with its Auxiliary to advance one (1) winning entry to District for every fifteen (15) entries or fraction thereof received in their local competition. Only one (1) winning District entry with a head and shoulders photo of the District winner is to be submitted to the Department VFW.

The first place Department winning entry in each competition will be submitted into the National VFW Competition. There are fifty-three National Patriot's Pen Awards totaling \$55,000. Those range from \$5,000 for first place down to \$500 for fifty-third place. There is a total of \$171,000 in National Voice of Democracy Scholarships ranging from \$35,000 for first place down to \$1,000 for fifty-third place. Therefore, each Department winner in these two contests will receive a National award.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art, Patriot's Pen, and Voice of Democracy Competition rules state that a student may submit only one entry into each competition. **Be sure to thoroughly read all Scholarships Program materials in this book for additional details and requirements of each contest.**

The Department of Massachusetts VFW Auxiliary presents monetary awards to the state winners in each of these contests. The awards come from the **Bessie Hanken Youth Awards Fund**, so all Auxiliaries are asked to **donate as generously as you possibly can to this fund**. Individual contributions would also be greatly appreciated. In memoriam donations and donations in lieu of birthday, holiday, and congratulatory gifts traditionally given to family, friends, or co-workers contributed to the Bessie Hanken Youth Awards Fund will not only serve to reward young people for their accomplishments but also honor those in whose name the donation is made.

A \$200 first place award and a \$100 second place award will be given to the state winners in each of our Auxiliary sponsored Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests.

In addition to the prizes awarded by the Department of Massachusetts VFW to the state winners in the Patriot's Pen Competition, the Department Auxiliary presents \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place, \$75 for fourth place, and \$50

for fifth place. Our awards to the state winners in the Voice of Democracy Competition are \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$200 for third place, \$150 for fourth place, and \$100 for fifth place.

**Donations through National to the Patriotic Art and the Continuing Education Scholarship Escrow Funds are needed.** The goals of these funds are to increase the number and amounts of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarships awarded at the national level and to increase the award amount of the Continuing Education Scholarship from \$1,250 to \$2,500, respectively. Auxiliaries and individual members are asked to **make donations to these two scholarship escrow funds** to make these goals realities. To donate by mail, send a check earmarked either **Patriotic Art or Continuing Education** to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn.: Scholarship Fund, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City MO 64111. Donations may also be made online in MALTA by selecting "Make A Gift" and then entering the amount you choose to donate in the field next to the fund to which you choose to donate, followed by your payment information.

**The National VFW Auxiliary is offering Scholarships Program Awards to Auxiliaries that host an activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities through the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.** It will send a citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary and submits a completed Scholarships National Program Awards 2024-2025 Entry Form to me by 31 March 2025. I shall sign and forward the form to National Headquarters. The National Auxiliary will also award \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

**Scholarships Program Points to be earned in the Auxiliary of the Year Awards Program**

1. Promote the National Continuing Education Scholarship Contest	1 Point
2. Donate to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund through National	1 Point
3. Promote / Participate in the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest	2 Points
4. Promote / Participate in the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest	2 Points
5. Donate to the Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund (for both art contests) through National	2 Points
6. Assist Post by Promoting or Conducting the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest	2 Points
7. Assist Post by Promoting or Conducting the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest	2 Points
8. Donate to the Bessie Hanken Youth Awards Fund (through Department office) <i>(Note: This fund covers the prize money for all youth contests.)</i>	2 Points
9. Donation of \$50.00 or more to Bessie Hanken Youth Awards Fund	5 Points
10. Submit required two (2) reports by deadline dates (one [1] point each report period)	<u>2 Points</u>
	<b>21 Points</b>



# 2024-2025 VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship Application

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist VFW Auxiliary members and their immediate family who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. One (1) scholarship will be awarded each year to a selected candidate in each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

The \$1,250 scholarship shall be used in the academic year following completion of the contest. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college/university or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

## Eligibility:

- **VFW Auxiliary member** for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The **spouse, son and/or daughter** of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicant must be **21 years of age or older** by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Previous National Continuing Education Scholarship winners are not eligible.

Applicant Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to VFW Auxiliary Member: (please circle one)    **Self**    **Spouse**    **Son**    **Daughter**

VFW Auxiliary Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date VFW Auxiliary Member joined: \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary Member I.D. Number: \_\_\_\_\_ VFW Auxiliary No.: \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby grant permission to publish my name and photo 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 in one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the applicant listed above.*

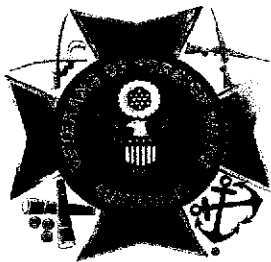
Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate piece of paper, provide typed answers each question listed below.  
All questions must be answered for the application to be considered.**

1. What is the name of the college/university or vocational/technical school you plan to attend?
2. Have you been accepted?
3. What is your intended major or course of study?
4. What is the Adjusted Gross Income from the family's Federal Income Tax return for the prior year?
5. How many dependents are in the household?
6. What are your financial reasons for applying for the Continuing Education Scholarship?
7. Have you been awarded Financial Aid from any other sources? Please list/specify.
8. Write a brief essay (no more than 300 words\*) describing your commitment to your goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals. \*Essays longer than 300 words will not be accepted.

Email to:  
info@vfwauxiliary.org with the following subject line:  
Continuing Education Scholarship Application  
**OR** mail to:  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Attn: Program Awards Administrator

**Application due to  
VFW Auxiliary  
National  
Headquarters  
By February 15**



# Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship  
2024-2025

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique, total impact of work.

## Contest Eligibility

- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school 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.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **NOT** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are **NOT** eligible.

## 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.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Do not frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", **INCLUDING** mat.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Complete typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) and attached to back of entry.
- Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest application.
- Digital art and photography are not accepted.

## VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$15,000  
Second place - \$7,500  
Third place - \$3,500  
Fourth and Fifth place \$1,500  
Sixth and Seventh \$1,000  
Eighth through Nineteenth place - \$500

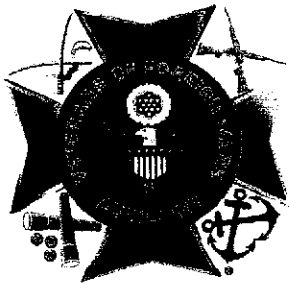
*VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall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

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

## VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- **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/August:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through twelfth place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** Art will be returned to students address on entry form.

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice.



# Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship  
for eligible student in grades 9-12

2024-2025

## Contest Entry Form

Please **print** or complete fillable form at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) and attach to back of entry  
with a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Artwork: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Media used: \_\_\_\_\_

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found.  
Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

Student Signature: \* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top National awards.*

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, and 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](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

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

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

**This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.**

**National Headquarters only accepts Department level winners.**

Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified and returned to student after National judging.

**Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Department of:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Artwork is the 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 VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then to the Department (state) for judging.

Department Scholarships Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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



# Judge's Scoring Sheet

## Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

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

**Entrant:**



### 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. Technique

2. Creativity

3. Contrast

4. Total impact of work

**Design Total**

**Total All Points**

**Judge's Comments:**

**Judge's Signature:**

**Date:**



# 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest 2024-2025

## A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship for eligible students in grades 9-12

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique, total impact of work.

### Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school 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, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are **NOT** eligible.

### Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be three dimensional.
- Entry may be paper, papier mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- Entry may not be larger than 18" in any direction.
- Entry may not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with entry.
- Complete typed explanation of the steps taken to create the 3-Dimensional art entry and an artist statement (250 words or less) and submit with entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art, photography, weapons, art generated by a 3-D printer and jewelry are **NOT** accepted.

### VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500  
Second place - \$1,500  
Third place - \$1,000  
Fourth place - \$500

*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](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

### VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

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

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice.



# 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

## A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

### for eligible students in grades 9-12

## 2024-2025 Contest Entry Form

Please print or complete fillable form at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) and submit with entry along with a typed explanation of the steps taken to create the 3-Dimensional art entry and an artist statement (250 words or less).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Artwork: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_ Media used: \_\_\_\_\_

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

Student Signature\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top National awards.*

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:

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

**This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.**

**National Headquarters only accepts Department level winners.**

**Entries received at National Headquarters that are not from the Department will be disqualified.**

**Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Department of:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Artwork is the 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 VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.

Department Scholarships Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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

# Judge's Scoring Sheet

## 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

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

**Entrant:**



### 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. Technique

2. Creativity

3. Contrast

4. Total impact of work

**Design Total**

**Total All Points**

**Judge's Comments:**


**Judge's Signature:**

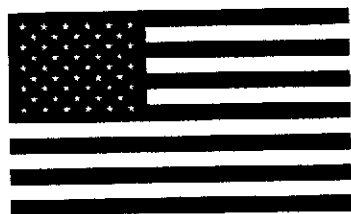
**Date:**

# Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest &

## 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

### COMMON MISTAKES & HELPFUL HINTS

The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest provide an incredible scholarship opportunity for young artists while promoting patriotism throughout schools and home school associations. Follow the advice below to ensure that every student who enters the contest has the best possible chance of realizing his or her dreams.



#### **USING THE U.S. FLAG**

As a powerful symbol of our country, the U.S. Flag is often used in art entries. It can also be a source of problems for judges and Auxiliary Chairmen. When notifying schools, homeschool associations and students about the contest, give them a copy of the Federal Flag Code and encourage participants to closely examine the U.S. Flag before using it in their art.

#### **COMMON MISTAKES:**

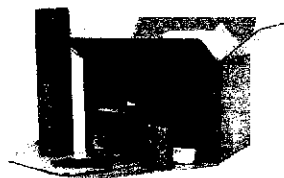
- Not enough stars or stripes.
- Stripes in the wrong order or place.
- The Flag appearing to have someone standing on it, or something written or lying on it.

**HINT:** It is always best to portray the Flag as waving freely.

#### **APPLICATION (One application for each contest)**

When a student submits an art entry and contest application, check for the following:

- Print or legible writing. If you can't decipher the writing, chances are we can't either.
- Address with city, state and ZIP code.
- Phone number with area code.
- Email address. This is used for all notifications.
- Signature of both student and parent or guardian.
- Source- this must be complete even if it states "original idea."
- Media used.
- Title of art entry.
- An artist statement, essay and detailed description of the art entry and how it was made.
- Signatures of participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman and Department Scholarships Chairman.
- Art entries not sponsored by a VFW Auxiliary will not be judged and will be returned to the student.



#### **PACKING THE ART**

**VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is not responsible for art lost or damaged during shipment. Please take in consideration that the art entry may be very fragile and will be shipped over many miles and encounter weather condition's.**

- Use the correct size packaging.
- Use paper, bubble wrap, air pillows, cushioning and/or foam shippers.
- Label the package clearly to insure deadline arrival.

# PATRIOT'S PEN



2024-2025 Theme

## "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

### What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

### How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

### Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

### How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2024. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

### How Am I Judged?

**Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:**

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

**Theme development is worth 35 points:**

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

**Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:**

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

### What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2024-2025 theme is:

**"My Voice in America's Democracy?"**

### Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

### Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](https://vfw.org/contactus) to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact  
the VFW National Headquarters  
at 816.968.1155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)**

# 2024-2025 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

**To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian**  
(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

( )

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

## What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

**I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules**

Signature of Student Participant

Date

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants

No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

( )

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_



Twisted X Brands  
A Proud Sponsor



# Patriot's Pen Score Sheet

**Theme Knowledge:** Shows knowledge of the theme and use of research

**Theme Development:** Answers relevant facts - who, what, where, when and why.  
Relates to writer's own experiences.

**Clarity of Ideas:** Provides a clear explanation of the writer's interpretation of the theme.

**Contestant Code No.**

**Theme Knowledge (0-30 pts.)**

**Theme Development (0-35 pts.)**

**Clarity of Ideas (0-35 pts.)**

**TOTAL (0-100)**


**Contestant Code No.**

**Theme Knowledge (0-30 pts.)**

**Theme Development (0-35 pts.)**

**Clarity of Ideas (0-35 pts.)**

**TOTAL (0-100)**


**Contestant Code No.**

**Theme Knowledge (0-30 pts.)**

**Theme Development (0-35 pts.)**

**Clarity of Ideas (0-35 pts.)**

**TOTAL (0-100)**


\_\_\_\_\_  
**Judge's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date and Location of Judging**



## 2024-2025 Theme

### “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

**Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024**

**Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award**

#### What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme is, “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

#### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

#### The Rules

##### Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high 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 at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

##### What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org) for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

#### Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

#### What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Oct. 31, 2024**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

#### What Are the Judging Criteria?

##### Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

##### Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

##### Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

# 2024-2025 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

## To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

( )

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

## Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

## I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

( )

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

For assistance contact:

816.968.1155

Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

## Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_





# Voice of Democracy Score Sheet

**Originality:** Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

**Content:** Ideas are expressed clearly and in an organized manner. Theme is fully developed and transitions between ideas are smooth.

**Delivery:** Speaking voice is clear and credible.

**Contestant Code No.**

**Originality (0-30 pts.)**

**Content (0-35 pts.)**

**Delivery (0-35 pts.)**

**TOTAL (0-100)**


**Contestant Code No.**

**Originality (0-30 pts.)**

**Content (0-35 pts.)**

**Delivery (0-35 pts.)**

**TOTAL (0-100)**


**Contestant Code No.**

**Originality (0-30 pts.)**

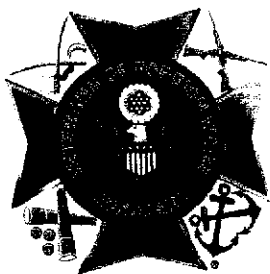
**Content (0-35 pts.)**

**Delivery (0-35 pts.)**

**TOTAL (0-100)**


**Judge's Signature**

**Date and Location of Judging**



# Scholarships

## National Program Awards 2024-2025 Entry Form

### Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the  
Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary No: \_\_\_\_\_ Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the activity and/or event that educated the community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

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The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Scholarships Ambassador Dina Hudson by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Department Scholarships Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.**



**STATE PRESIDENT'S PINS**  
Josephine Reeves, Chairman  
3 Saint John's Road  
Worcester, MA 01603-2311  
508-333-8487  
[638jor@gmail.com](mailto:638jor@gmail.com)

Department President, Kelly Durkee-Erwin, has designed a pin that is near and dear to her.

It is a purple heart (in memory of her grandfather) that contains a gold star (she's a member of a gold star family.) The pin also depicts a blue star and a white star to honor the veterans of her family.

As usual, the pin sells for \$3 each; the proceeds of which are equally divided between Kelly's Special Project and the Department General Fund.

A representative from your Auxiliary can get up to 50 pins on consignment. Please note that payment for the pins is expected within three months. Kindly send your check to Betty Rosa with "PINS" written on the memo line of the check.

If your Auxiliary wants credit for the sale of pins during the first half of the year, payment must be received by Betty Rosa by November 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow her adequate time to process it and me adequate time to complete my block forms.

I will be available at all Department functions and meetings and should have pins with me for purchase. I will also accept payment for pins and will document and forward it to Betty as indicated above.

## **STATE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT**

**Cathy Churchill, Chairman**  
**43 Marvin Road**  
**Melrose, MA 0217**  
**617-943-0276**  
**[cathy.churchill@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy.churchill@yahoo.com)**

This year our Massachusetts State President, Kelly Durkee-Erwin, is proud to have partnered with Military Friends Foundation (MFF) as her \*State President's Special Project.

The Military Friends Foundation was founded after the 9/11 terror attacks, and their programs are designed to offer immediate personalized support to the families of fallen soldiers, supporting Massachusetts Gold Star Families from all eras. Their Casualty Affairs Grant supports families whose loved ones passed while on active duty in the armed forces.

Military Friends Foundation also holds Annual Memorial & Tribute Events, such as:

- Gold Star Families Tree at the Massachusetts State House
- Massachusetts Run/Walk for the Fallen 5K
- Tough Ruck Marathon – Held in partnership with the B.A.A. To Honor America's Fallen Military & First Responders
- Gold Star Wives & Spouses Day
- Thanksgiving Hero Meals Care Packages

These are only a few of the great things that Military Friends Foundation does every day to help our military and veteran families.

A volunteer opportunity I have participated in recently, which happens on the first Wednesday of every month is the Thank You Meals for Gold Star, Veteran and Active-Duty military families.

To find out about this and other upcoming volunteer opportunities across the state, please go to the Military Friends Foundation website:

MilitaryFriends.org / [info@militaryfriends.org](mailto:info@militaryfriends.org)

**\*DID YOU KNOW** that sales of the State President's shirt help us to donate to this wonderful organization, so if you have not done so yet, stop by and get an order form at our next meeting!

## **VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

**Dawn Wright, Chairman**  
**154 Lunenburg Rd**  
**West Townsend, MA 01474**  
**Cell # 603-532-6269**  
**\* dgbunton@aol.com \***

### **“From Our Roots to our Branches EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”**

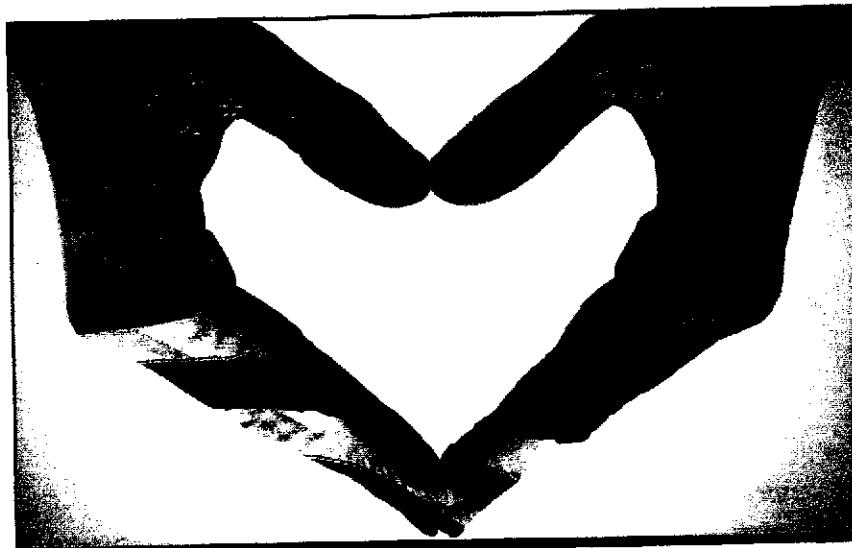
The new year has begun, and I am looking forward to reading about the great things you do for our veterans and their families.

Veterans and Family Support is the heart our organization, it is why we joined. There is a lot of information on the services we provide and actions we can take. I am attaching a few key points, but I strongly urge you to use MALTA resources and read what is available under Veterans and Family Support. Familiarize and educate yourself on the many programs and services the VFW and the Auxiliary have to offer veterans such as:

- MAP-Military Assistance Program
- PACT Act- Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics
- Unmet Needs
- Veterans Crisis Campaign
- Don't Wait, Reach Out Campaign
- Adopt-A-Unit
- Disaster Relief
- Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness
- Wreaths across America
- Veterans Voices Writing Project

Information and forms on these, other programs and ways you and your auxiliary can help are all found in MALTA.

I know your Auxiliaries do the work, so please report it. When you do something, make a note right away so you do not forget to when it comes time to report. Thank you



## **RESOURCES FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

816-756-3390

[vfw.org](http://vfw.org)

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary (VFW Auxiliary)**

816-561-8655

[vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)

### **VFW National Home Military & Veteran Family Helpline**

800-313-4200

[vfwnationalhome.org/get-help](http://vfwnationalhome.org/get-help)

### **Veterans Crisis Line**

800-273-8255

[veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net)

### **Military OneSource**

800-342-9647

[militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil)

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Benefit Line: 800-827-1000

[va.gov](http://va.gov)





## Adopt-A-Unit FAQ

The Adopt-a-Unit Program assists in building relationships between the VFW and our military members.

### Who is Eligible to Adopt-a-Unit:

- VFW Posts
- VFW Auxiliary
- Combination of Both

### Why you should Adopt-a-Unit:

- To support your local military members and their families. As VFW/Auxiliary members, you understand the challenges military members and their families face and the support they need.
- To help connect military members with the vast network of resources the VFW has available. Conducting Adopt-a-Unit activities is a great recruiting opportunity.

### How to find a military unit:

- Contact your local National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty units.
- Access the "Find a Unit Flyer" which is available at [vfw.org/TroopSupport/](http://vfw.org/TroopSupport/)
- Speak with other VFW Posts and Veterans Organizations who may have knowledge of units in the area.

### When to adopt a unit:

- There is no time like the present and our military members and their families need your assistance now more than ever. Your assistance is equally important whether the unit is home or deployed overseas.

### What kind of activities should you plan:

- Welcome Home, Deployment, Yellow Ribbon, Family Day, Dinner/Picnics, Holiday Parties, Meetings/Briefings and Funeral/Memorial Services to name a few.
- You are only limited by your imagination when it comes to supporting our troops and their families.

### Where to get assistance for Adopt-a-Unit Questions:

Call the Military Assistance Program Office at 816.756.3390

Email the MAP Office at [m.a.p@vfw.org](mailto:m.a.p@vfw.org)

### How to Apply:

Submit an Adopt-a-Unit Application to the MAP Office, the form is located on the VFW website at [www.vfw.org/TroopSupport/](http://www.vfw.org/TroopSupport/)

### When to Report:

Submit a minimum of one AAU Activity Report annually per adopted unit.

Your first report is due at least one year from the date the application was received. You can also submit a report after every event that you conduct with your adopted unit.

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

#### WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

[info@vfw.org](mailto:info@vfw.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)



# Military Assistance Program Grant Guidelines

## **Purpose:**

To provide financial assistance to VFW Posts/Depts. and Auxiliaries who sponsor events with their local military community. These funds are meant to build relationships and provide information on VFW programs and services.

## **MAP Grant Criteria:**

1. Only a VFW or Auxiliary member may submit a MAP Grant Application.
2. The application must be signed and dated by the Post/Dept. Commander, Quartermaster or the Auxiliary President or Treasurer.
3. Post participation in programs will be verified.
4. The grant is limited to basic food items and non-alcoholic beverages for currently serving military and their family members only. Grants cannot exceed \$5000 per fiscal year (Sept. 1 - Aug. 31). Events cooked and served by the Post are \$8 per person, catered meals are \$10 per person.

Grant does not cover equipment or venue rentals, gifts, decorations, entertainment, etc.

5. Must have and explain recruitment plan for event.
6. The grant does not cover public or formal events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.
7. The grant application must be submitted no earlier than 14 days prior to the event. Any exceptions to this must be submitted in writing to the Director VFW Programs for approval.
8. An After Action Report along with eligible receipts must be submitted within 14 days of the event. Non submission will result in the Dept./Post/Auxiliary being billed for the grant amount.
9. If the event receipts total less than the grant amount provided, the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be required to refund the difference within 14 days.
10. If the event is cancelled a full refund is required. If rescheduled for a later date, a written explanation must be submitted to the MAP office detailing the new dates. It will be determined by the MAP office and VFW Program Director whether a refund will be requested or the Dept./Post/Auxiliary will be allowed to keep the grant amount.

11. MAP Grants must be submitted through the following form:

MAP Grant Application

**\*You can also go to the All-American Dashboard to apply.**

12. MAP Grant Reporting must be submitted through the following form:

MAP Grant Report

Note: Prior approval of similar events does not guarantee future approval. An AAU Report must be submitted prior to requesting a new MAP Grant.

**For any further questions or concerns please contact the MAP Office by phone at 816.756.3390**

## **Unmet Needs Program FAQ**

### **What does the Unmet Needs Program do?**

- Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active-duty service members and their immediate families to assist with daily necessities.

### **Who is eligible to receive assistance?**

- Service members who are currently serving on active duty (to include activated Guard/Reserve members) whose financial hardship is a direct result of one of the following:
  - A current deployment.
  - Military pay error at no fault of the service member.
  - Currently pending a medical discharge due to service-connected injuries/illnesses received while on active duty.

### **Who is not eligible to receive assistance?**

- Anyone who has not served in the military, or the financial hardship is caused by one of the following:
  - Misconduct.
  - Civilian, legal, or domestic issues.
  - Issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
  - Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

### **What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program assist with?**

- Unmet Needs assists with any expenses that are classified as “daily necessities,” which includes, but is not limited to the following: household expenses such as mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance, vehicle expenses such as payments, repairs, insurance, utilities and primary phone, childcare expenses, and medical bills – the patient’s portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

### **What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program not assist with?**

- Unmet Needs does not assist with any expenses that are not classified as “daily necessities,” which includes, but is not limited to the following: military debt/repayment, tuition assistance debt/repayment, credit cards of any kind, cable, internet, secondary phones, taxes owed of any kind, rentals of any kind to include vehicle, furniture, electronics, or any expense not determined to be a “daily necessity.”

### **How do I get an application for the Unmet Needs financial grant?**

- The application can be found online at [www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds](http://www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds), by clicking the “Apply Now” button or the application link under Unmet Needs Resources. (Chrome is recommended for the online application.) Applications cannot be completed unless all required fields are met. Once the application is submitted a notification email will be sent to you with further information.

### **How does the Unmet Needs application process work?**

- Once an application has been submitted, the Unmet Needs caseworkers review the application and contacts the applicant if necessary for any additional required documents or information. All expenses are verified with the creditors. Payments are sent directly to the creditor to ensure proper disbursement of funds.

### **What additional documents are needed for the Unmet Needs Program to process an application?**

- All required documents are submitted with the online application and cannot be submitted without them. Depending on the situation, additional documentation may be requested by the Unmet Needs caseworker.

### **How long does the application process take?**

- The applications are processed in the order in which they are received. It can take up to 20 business days to process an application once received.

### **What is the normal timeline for helping an individual through Unmet Needs?**

- The length of time to process a request for assistance depends upon the information provided on the application and the amount of research conducted. After verification of the emergency from the service member and contacting creditors, a check is normally processed within 3 business days and an additional 5-7 business days for mailing of funds to the creditor.

### **How can I contact the Unmet Needs Program?**

- The Unmet Needs program is located at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters in Kansas City.

#### **Mailing Address:**

Unmet Needs Program  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Toll Free Number: 866.789.6333

FAX Number: 816.968.2779

Email: [unmetneeds@vfw.org](mailto:unmetneeds@vfw.org)

Website: [www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds](http://www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds)

### **How can I help?**

- Contact your local VFW State Department or local VFW Post to let them know you're here to help. You can also send a monetary donation to the VFW Foundation to support the Unmet Needs Program.

#### **Donations can be made:**

By mail:

VFW Foundation  
406 West 34th Street, Ste. 920  
Kansas City, MO, 64111  
*Memo Line – Unmet Needs*

Online:

Donate [online here](#) or visit  
[www.vfw.org/Ways-to-Give](http://www.vfw.org/Ways-to-Give).

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

**[www.vfwauxma.org](http://www.vfwauxma.org)**

**HOME ABOUT PROGRAMS RESOURCES NEWS**

The Department of Massachusetts VFW Auxiliary website has been up and running for 3 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](http://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  
2024-2025 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.

If your Auxiliary or District cannot meet in person and the Dept. ZOOM account is not in use, I can host your meeting – email me to inquire on usage.

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

**Carrie Joseph  
Youth Activities**

175 Sessions Drive  
Hampden, MA 01036  
413-246-3606  
clgjoseph01@gmail.com

I am honored to be this year's Youth Activities Chairperson! I know that by working together and working with our National Ambassador, Dominique Garcia, we can reach new heights. We can do this by reaching out and teaching the youth about our beautiful country and brave veterans and service members.

***This Year's Programs and Activities***

***Patriotism through Literacy***



Books are a wonderful way to teach children about patriotism and our country. Consider hosting a Read with a Veteran Day. You can have the youth read to the veterans, or have the veterans read to the youth.

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

Everyone enjoys being praised for doing well. Print some R.A.P cards . Print some cards and be ready to pass them out when you see a child showing patriotism.



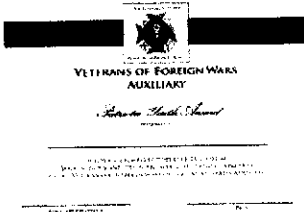


## ***Illustrating America - National Contest***



This contest is open for children in grades K - 8. It will be judged on patriotic themes and technique. Deadline for entries to the Post Auxiliaries is March 31, to the Department by April 15, and to National Headquarters by May 5.

### ***Patriotic Youth Award***



This award is to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and their support for our veterans, service members, and their families.

### ***Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans Citations***

This is to be given to youth groups to recognize for their efforts and service projects that honor our veterans and helping our service members and their families.

### ***Working with Youth Groups***



An Auxiliary can work with or sponsor a youth group, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and school groups. There are many ways to get the youth involved, like placing flags on graves.

***For more details and program details, you can contact me at [clgjoseph01@gmail.com](mailto:clgjoseph01@gmail.com) or my cell phone is 413-246-3606. Or visit MALTA - Member Resources - under Youth Activities.***

***I am looking forward to an amazing year working with you and the Youth!***

# **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 you can ensure that all youth you encounter have the best experience possible.



1. Consider taking Youth Protection training. Many organizations working with youth provide and require training. One of the most comprehensive is by the 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 when it ends. 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 asking parents to sign a permission slip and make sure 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 events. There may be laws in your state that require background checks.
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 many 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, are all simple actions that 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.



# VFW Auxiliary National

## Illustrating America Art Contest

An art contest for eligible students in grades K-8

### 2024-2025

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

#### Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades K-8 by the March 31 deadline 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.

#### Contest Rules

- Students name, age and grade level must be printed on the back of art submission.
- 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.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Do not frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", **INCLUDING** mat.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- 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.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with art entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography and are **NOT** accepted.

#### 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](mailto: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 in 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 in each grade division due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **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 entries 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  
2024-2025

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE  
Incomplete and/or illegible forms will disqualify the entrant

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description of art entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature: \*

*\*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.*

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:

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

### To avoid entrant disqualification

This section to be filled out completely and correctly by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winners.

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Department President, Secretary or Treasurer verification signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 may be 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:**



This book is a gift from

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**In honor of  
Brenda Bryant  
2024-2025 National President  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary**



This book is a gift from

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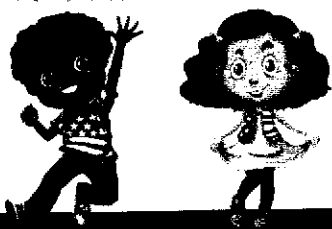
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**In honor of  
Brenda Bryant  
2024-2025 National President  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary**



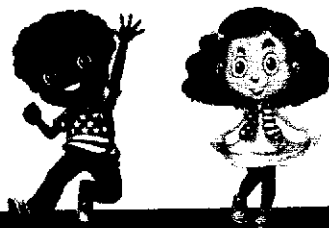
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Random Act of Patriotism



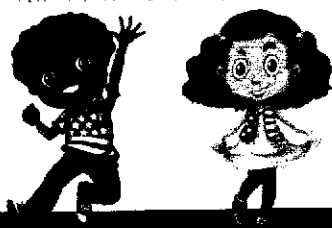
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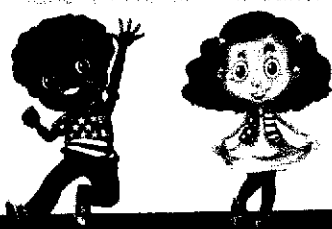
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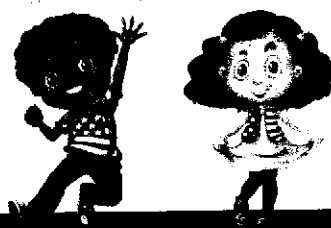
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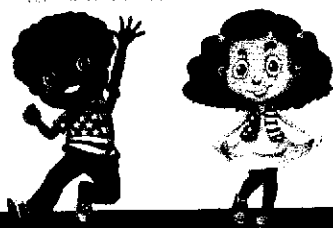
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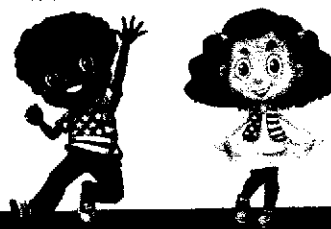
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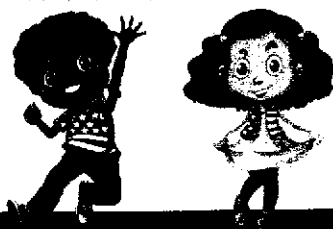
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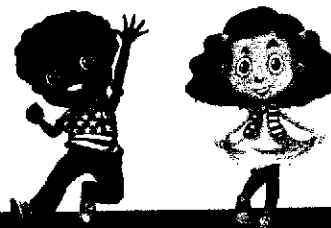
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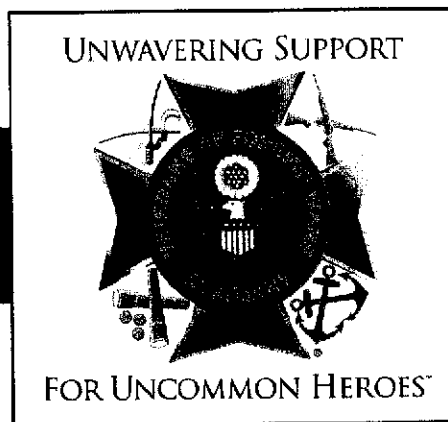
Random Act of Patriotism



# NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism





# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

*Patriotic Youth Award*

PRESENTED TO

---

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

---

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

---

DATE



**EXTENDING SERVICE  
TO 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.**

**2024-2025**

  
National President

  
National Secretary