

Scholarships

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Each of our National Scholarships encourages Patriotism and assists with secondary educational expenses. By educating our youth, our members and our families, we ensure they have the means to fulfill their potential, as they are the future of this Nation.

Our Scholarships Program also has the potential to introduce the important work we do in our communities and school districts. Our VFW and Auxiliary Team, promoting each contest and encouraging all to participate, can strongly influence parents, students, and teachers alike. And our yearly goal is always to make these Scholarship available to more and more students!

We can “**Let Freedom Ring,**” because of the sacrifices Veterans willingly made for us. When we are “**Banding Together for Our Veterans**” we acknowledge the debt of gratitude we will forever owe them!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2023-2024

Student Participation -

Recipient Recognition -

Community Awareness, and

Increasing The Fund!!!

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY CONTEST

2023 - 2024 Theme: “What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

This contest was created to give high school students a forum to express their opinions by creating an essay on a specific theme, then recording the essay as a speech. Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1947, the Auxiliary is in partnership with the comrades to promote and encourage youth participation in their premier Scholarship program.

The Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest is open to students in grades 9-12 by October 31, 2023. Students can be enrolled in public, private, parochial high school, or an approved home study program in the United States, its territories or possessions, or dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas school. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawfully U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application of which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign Exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous 1st Place Department Winners, GED or Adult Education students are ineligible.

Students are required to write an essay offering their opinion on the specific theme, and the student must be the sole author of the essay. The essay is then recorded on a flash drive. Please note that CD's are no longer accepted. The recording of the speech is to be in the student's own voice and in English. No music, singing, poetry, sound effect, or background noises are permitted. The essay must not identify the student in any way, (including but not limited to name, school, city, state, race, or national origin,) although the recording and typed essay should be labeled with the student's name to show ownership. The recording is limited to between 3 – 5 minutes (+ or – 5 seconds) in length.

The entry application, flash drive, and a printed copy of the essay are then submitted to the local VFW for judging. Judging is done on the recording. District level winners are required to submit a head and shoulders photograph along with their entries. Please download the complete rules and official entry form at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

Each VFW Post & Auxiliary may sponsor 1 entry for each 15 entries or a part thereof, to advance to the District Level of judging. One winner from each District then advances to the Department level of judging. **PLEASE, DO NOT MAIL DISTRICT LEVEL WINNERS TO STATE HEADQUARTERS!**

MAIL TO: Mr. Thomas Hanzes, Chairman
State of PA, VFW VOD
106 North 16th Street
Greenville, PA 16125

DEADLINES: Entries to VFW Post: Midnight, October 31, 2023
Completion of Post Judging: November 18, 2023
Completion of District Judging: December 3, 2023
To State Chairman Hanzes: December 9, 2023 - District Winner Entry form, flash drive of essay, typed copy of the essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place - \$ 35,000

Second - \$ 21,000

Third - \$ 15,000

4th through 36th - \$ 7,000 to \$ 1,500

37th – 53rd - \$ 1,000

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST
2023 – 2024 Theme: “How are you inspired by America?”

This competition is provided for all students in 6th-8th grades by October 31, 2023, enrolled in a public, private, parochial school, or an approved home study program in the U.S., its territories, or its possessions. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residency (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 older, students who previously placed in the National Competition, GED and Adult Education students are ineligible. Please download the complete rules and official entry form at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

All essays must be the contestants original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the essay's theme should be positive and focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly, and plainly identified wherever used. Parents, counselors, or teachers may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestants!

Essays should be 300 – 400 (+ or – 5 words) and typed in English. (Every word counts regardless of length, excluding the title and footnotes.) The essay must not identify the student in any way, (including but not limited to name, school, city, state, race, or national origin.) Graphics and color are not permitted on the essays. Only White 8"x11.5" paper for printing. **DO NOT PUT A NAME, GRADE, or DATE on the essay.** The completed Entry form is your cover page. District level winners will be required to submit a head and shoulders photograph along with their entries.

The essays and application forms are submitted by the schools to the VFW Post for judging. Each VFW Post may sponsor 1 entry for each 15 entries or a part thereof, to advance to the District Level of judging. One winner from each District advances to the Department judging, and one Department winner advances to the National finals.

PLEASE, DO NOT MAIL WINNERS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS!

MAIL TO: Mr. William Lamond III, Chairman
State of PA, Patriot's Pen Essay
3360 Nashotka Road
Madison Township, PA 18444

DEADLINES: Entries to the Sponsoring VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2023
Post Judging Complete – November 18, 2023
District Judging Complete – December 3, 2023
To State Chairman Lamond: December 9, 2023 - District Winner Entry form,
typed copy of the essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AWARD

First Place - \$400.00 and a Plaque

NATIONAL AWARDS

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| First - | \$ 5,000 |
| Second - | \$ 4,000 |
| Third - | \$ 3,500 |
| Fourth through 53rd: - | \$ 2,750 - \$ 500 |

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is designed to assist Auxiliary members or family member by helping with the economic burden of secondary education. It is **ONLY** awarded to a current Auxiliary member in good standing (who must be a member for at least one year), their spouse or child who has a financial need. The Scholarship is paid directly to the student's choice of American College, University, or Vocational/Technical school.

Applicant must be at least 21 years old by 2/15/2024, complete the application, and write a statement (of 300 words or less) describing their commitment to their goals, and how this scholarship would help them reach those goals by lessening the fiscal impact of returning to school.

Can you meet these qualifications? Because the VFW National Headquarters receives less than 100 applications per year, and one of them could be yours! One \$1,250 scholarship will be awarded to one applicant from each of the four Conferences. Applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education. Application and statement must be received at National HQ by February 15, 2024.

Mail completed application to: Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111
Or email to: info@vfwauxiliary.org

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

This scholarship provides students with the opportunity to express their idea of Patriotism using their artistic talents. The competition is available to 9th-12th grade students, enrolled in public, private, or parochial schools, or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools, by the March 31st deadline. The maximum age of the student at the time of entry is 19. While U.S.

Citizenship is not required, they must be lawful U.S permanent resident (the application for which not denied) and they intend to become a U.S. Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over age 20, GED and adult education students, or previous winners of the Patriotic Art Contest are not eligible.

Artwork may be done with oils, watercolors, pencil, pastels, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylics, markers, pen-and-ink, or any other media. Artwork must be on stretcher frames, canvas or paper and may not be smaller than 8" x 10", nor larger than 18" x 24" excluding mat. Do not frame entries! Entries not on stretcher frame or canvas board may be matted with only white matboard, and must be reinforced with heavy paper or cardboard on the back so it does not bend. Mounted/floating matting is permissible, **but must be white**. If the American flag is shown in the art, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code. Entries are judged on the Patriotic theme and technique.

Students shall submit their artwork with an entry form and a brief description of the patriotism being expressed in the artwork. (150 words or less, typed, and in English.) Both must be securely attached to the back of the art. Please download the fillable entry form on MALTA. Complete rules are available at: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.

Each Auxiliary may sponsor one winner. District judging is not required or recommended in PA. Package the artwork securely to prevent damage in transit, and ship to:

Joan Faddis
Department Scholarships Chairman
12 Melissa Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335-1255

DEADLINES: Entries received by: Local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2024
VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman by – April 15, 2024

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP YOUR ENTRIES at the conclusion of Department Convention by the submitting student, Auxiliary member, or their representative.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$350.00 Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place - \$15,000
Second - \$ 7,500
Third - \$ 3,500
Fourth - \$ 2,500

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|--------------------|----------|
| Fifth & Sixth - | \$ 1,500 |
| Seventh & Eighth - | \$ 1,000 |
| Ninth-Nineteenth - | \$ 500 |

All Scholarships are paid directly to the American College, University, Vocational, Technical or Trade School of the winners' choice.

3-DIMENSIONAL ART CONTEST

The 3-Dimensional Art Contest promotes Patriotism while recognizing young artists in grades 9th -12th. The contest accepts three-dimensional art that can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, sculpture, metal, wood, fabric, etc. (See the official rules for art forms that are allowed.)

The competition is available to 9th-12th grade students, enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school, or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. The maximum age of the student at the time of entry is 19. While US Citizenship is not required, they must be lawful US permanent resident (the application for which not denied) and they intend to become a U.S. Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over age 20, GED and adult education students, or Previous winners of the Patriotic Art Contest are not eligible. The student must attend a school in the same state as the sponsoring Auxiliary, but is not required to be a VFW/Auxiliary member or a relative of a member.

Pieces should be no smaller than 8" and no larger than 18" in any direction. Art cannot weigh more than 5 lbs. Digital art, photography and jewelry are not eligible.

Students shall submit an entry form and a brief description of the patriotism being expressed in the artwork. (150 words or less, typed and in English.) Attach both to the artwork. Please download the fillable entry form and complete rules, which are available at:

vfwauxiliary.org/wpcontent/uploads/Creative-Patriotic-Art-Form-Fillable-For-Website.pdf

Each Auxiliary may sponsor one winner. District judging is not required or recommended in PA. Package the artwork securely to prevent damage in transit, and ship to:

Joan Faddis
Department Scholarships Chairman
12 Melissa Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335-1255

DEADLINES: Entries received by the local Auxiliary: March 31, 2024

Entries received by the Department Chairman: April 15, 2024

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP ARTWORK at the conclusion of Department Convention by the submitting student, Auxiliary, or their representative.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place - \$ 2,500

Second - \$ 1,000

Third - \$ 500

All Scholarships are paid directly to the American University, College, or Vocational/Technical School of the student's choice.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART ESCROW FUND

Each year, there are than 80 First-place Department Patriotic Art 2-D and 3-D Student winners who are unrewarded on the National Level. Due to our extremely limited funding, only 22 students for the two contests receive a scholarship. Please consider helping us to increase not only the number of students we reward, but also the amount of the awards given, by hosting fundraising events or simply donating to the Escrow Fund established for these contests.

Donations can be made on MALTA or earmarked and sent to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

DEPARTMENT OF PA SCHOLARSHIPS CITATIONS

1. Citation to VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition.
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the Patriot's Pen Essay Competition.
3. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the 2-D Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.
4. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest.
5. Citation to the District Chairman with the most outstanding promotion of the Scholarships Program. (Based on **Monthly** reporting to the Department Scholarships Chairman.*)
6. Citation to the Auxiliary Chairman with the most outstanding promotion of the Scholarships Program. (Based on **Monthly** reporting to the Department Scholarships Chairman.*)

*Monthly reporting means a report sent every month, which includes a copy of your promotion. (i.e.: What handouts you presented at your meeting, what you spoke about, how you encourage your members to participate, etc.) **Sending 4 reports at once is not monthly reporting!** However, I will accept April through July reports all sent in August 2023, no later!!!

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.