

Scholarships Program Student Contact Idea

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September General Orders

Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen entries are due October 31, 2025. Trying to find a way to get kids and young adults the opportunity to take advantage of these programs is proving to be more challenging each year. When a VFW or Auxiliary is unable to get entry forms into the schools, we need to find different ways to get this information into the students' hands. Here is a quick, inexpensive, and fun way to make contact with students and share these programs for general knowledge. This idea is cheaper and less expensive than printing off handfuls of entry forms for them to go to waste.

Wooden clothes pins can be purchased from the Dollar General Store or Dollar Tree stores for \$1.25 a pack of 60 clothes pins. The 1/4" diameter color coding label dots can be purchased for about \$2 at Walmart.



If you have a label maker, that will make this project easier than doing this by hand but using a 0.5 ultra fine marker (again from the dollar store) you can mark one side of the clothes pin with the Scholarships title and on the other side, your post number and an email address. This way as students take these pins, they will have your contact information. It can also be helpful to have the Scholarships QR code handy for any student or parent to take an image to connect with the page where contest entry forms can be found.



Here is how you make this more of a game for students. Take the mini dots and color code pins on the inside of the pins. For every color, have some type of give away prize for the students. Again, the dollar tree would be a great option for candy awards with these pins. Each color dot would match a prize. Not every pin needs a dot. It is ok for not every student to win a prize, which is part of the game. Track how many pins you tag with the colored dots and be sure that you have the correct number of prizes for the game. Once you have that identified, you place the clothes pins in a basket, a bucket, a bag of some kind and allow the students to take a pin. If it has a dot they win the corresponding prize. If no dot, the students still get to keep the pin and has your information.



Take the opportunity to share with the students the programs, what they entail and the opportunities they could provide if they succeed. This idea can be used at a farmer's market, a library, a buddy poppy drive, a membership drive, a festival or carnival. Take the opportunity to share these programs and highlight the rules as well as the deadlines. Think "outside the box" and connect with the students outside of schools. Be creative. Remember that the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot Pen contests are the first ones due at the end of October. The art programs are not due until March but still highlight these as well. Remember that **Every Day is Veterans Day**.