

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

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This year's themes for the Auxiliary ring so very true. **"Every Day is Veterans Day"** and **"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans"** covers so many perspectives and these are thoughts we should live by from an Auxiliary standpoint as these are the primary reasons we do what we do. How fitting that this year, the National President's special project is the Continuing Education Scholarship and the Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen theme this program year is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country". By engaging in these programs, we help to share a vision that the youth of today should understand and come to appreciate if they do not already. By interacting in these programs, we gain the ability to cover all age groups which plays to our benefit in the long run. The majority of the scholarship programs allow these young individuals to display their creativity at different levels. All we have to do is get out the word and encourage these young individuals to take that first step. It could make all the difference. Reach out to your local schools, call the administration and find out who your contacts are for these different specialties. Remember to also reach out to your home school students because that could be a whole new vein. There is a growing volume of students that have selected a home school environment in the last few years and we should remember them as a solid resource. By educating ourselves and our youth, the future will be a bright one by ensuring our youth have the means to fulfill their potential.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Continuing Education Scholarships are offered to assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school. Must be 21 years old, and an Auxiliary member for a minimum of one year to qualify. Scholarship is in the amount of \$1,250. **Applications are due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2026.** The application can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education. The mailing address for applications is

- Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email submissions to info@vfwauxiliary.org

The National Presidents Special Project for this program year is the Continuing Education Scholarship. This year you can make a donation to this program through MALTA by selecting the "Make a Gift" tab in the system and selecting "National President's 2025-2026 Special Project". If you do not have a MALTA account (now would be a great time to create one) Mailing address to support the National President's Special Project is:

- VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
ATTN: Continuing Education Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Demensional Patriotic Art Contest

Contests are open to any student in grades 9-12 who is enrolled in a public, private, parochial high school or home study program in the United States. Students must be lawful US permanent residents or have applied for residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a US Citizen. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students or national winners of the same previous art contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

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 must 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

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

- VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships prizes range from \$500 - \$15,000 for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art program
- VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships prizes range from \$500 - \$2,500 for the 3-Demensional Patriotic Art program

Entries should be mailed to: Karen Mooney
81 Greenwood Drive
New Cumberland PA 17070

Deadlines for Patriotic Art and 3-Demensional Art entries:

Participating VFW Auxiliary – Due by March 31, 2026

(District Judging is OPTIONAL)

VFW Auxiliary Department – Due by April 15, 2026

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – Due by May 5, 2026

VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

Introduced in 2013, this VFW program awards scholarships to qualifying service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.

VFW Voice of Democracy (VOD) Scholarship

This year's theme for the VOD is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country". The Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9-12 by October 31, 2025. Students can be enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools, or an approved home study, if it is in the United States, its territories or possessions, or dependents of the U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous First - Place Department Winners, GED or Adult Education students are NOT eligible. Students are required to draft an essay pertaining to their thoughts and ideas on the theme selected and must be the sole owner of this essay. The essay is recorded on a flash drive, or sent as a voice file, as we NO longer accept CD's. The recording must be the student's own voice and MUST be in English. No music, singing, poetry, sound effect, or background noises are permitted, and the student may not be identified in any way, including name, school, city, state, race, or original origin but please make sure the essay is labeled with the student's name to show ownership.

The recording is limited to 3 to 5 minutes in length. Please adhere to this rule. The entry application, recorded speech, and a printed copy of this essay is submitted to your local VFW for judging. Judging is done on the recording. District level winners are required to submit a head and shoulder photograph with your submission of your entries. Please read the rules, one little mistake could disqualify your entry. The complete rules and entry form can be found at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

Each Post may sponsor 1 winner for each 15 entries or fraction thereof. (If a Post receives 170 entries, they may sponsor 12 entries!) If you do have remaining entries submitted to you, please check with other Posts in your District to see if they would like to sponsor one of your students. Please, If possible, give ALL our entries a winning chance. Offer them to other Posts to involve more students. One winner from each District will then advance to the Department level for judging.

PLEASE, DO NOT MAIL DISTRICT LEVEL WINNERS TO STATE HEADQUARTERS.

MAIL TO: Mr. Vince Gavin
State of PA., VFW VOD Chairman
658 Miller Street
Eynon, PA. 18403

DEADLINES: Entries to VFW Post: Midnight October 31, 2025

Completion of Post Judging: November 15, 2025

Completion of District Judging: December 1, 2025

To State Chairman Vince Gavin: December 9, 2025

District Winner Entry Form, recorded speech of essay, typed copy of Essay, and a head and shoulder photo must be sent in as well.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

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

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

This year's theme is: **"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country"**. This program is provided to ALL students in 6th to 8th Grades by October 31, 2024, enrolled in a public, private, parochial school, or an approved home study program in the U.S., it's territories or it's 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 have previously placed in the National competition, GED and Adult Education students are not eligible. Please download the complete rules and official entry form at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships. All essays must be the entries original work and a product of the contestants own thinking. The essay's theme should be positive and focused. Poetry is NOT accepted. Quotations may be used sparingly and identified when used. Parents, Counselors, or Teachers may check this essay for punctuation, grammar, and spelling, but the essay must remain the students work. Essays must be 300-400 words (+or-5 words) and typed in English. Every word counts in the length of the words, excluding title and footnotes. The essay must NOT identify the student in any way, (including but not limited to name, school, city or state, race, or national origin.) Graphics and colors are NOT permitted on the essays. Only White 8"x 11.5" paper for printing. DO NOT PUT YOUR 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 shoulder photo along with their entries. The essay and application forms are submitted by the schools to the VFW Post for judging. One winner for each 15 entries or a part thereof, will advance to the District level for judging. One winner from each District advances to the Department for judging, and one Department winner advances to National finals.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL WINNERS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS!

Mail to: Mr. Bill Lamond
State of PA., VFW PP Chairman
3360 Nashotks Road
Madison Township, PA 18444
email: ta30chev@gmail.com

DEADLINES: Entries to the sponsoring VFW Post- Midnight, October 31, 2025

Post Judging complete- November 15,2025

District Judging complete- December 1,2025

To State Chairman Bill Lamond: December 11,2025

District winner entry form, typed copy of essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AWARD First Place - \$400.00 and a Plaque



NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

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

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Scholarships – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

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-Dimensional 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 VFW Auxiliary who provides the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities available from the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.
6. Citation to VFW Auxiliary that promoted and/or donated to the Continuing Education Scholarship.
7. Drawing for a \$25 gift card for the District President whose District is 100% in reporting for the Scholarship Program.

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