

## **SCHOLARSHIPS 2024-2025**

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All our scholarships listed below were designed to get our Youth involved, and to help with their expenses. By working together as a VFW and Auxiliary Team, we can encourage our students to apply. Not only does this teach our youth about Patriotism, but keeps it alive. By encouraging our Programs, we instill in our Youth the respect for our Country's Flag, and a desire to see our Nation succeed. We are all One Nation under God, have a deep abiding love of our Country and our people. It is our time to teach our youth about ALL our Programs. To see that everyone gets a chance, we need to push involvement. Remember, today's youth is our family's future, and is the most valuable asset of our Country. If we don't get this information out to them, then we have failed as their mentor. Enclosed is our Who, What, When, Where, and Why. It is up to us to get all involved and get this information to them.

### **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2024-2025**

**Who Is Eligible -**

**What Programs Do We Have To Offer -**

**Where Do We Send Completed Forms To -**

**When Are The Deadline Dates -**

**Why To Get Involved and Help Further Education -**

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY CONTEST**

2024 - 2025 Theme: "IS AMERICA TODAY OUR FOREFATHER'S VISION?"

The Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9-12 by October 31, 2024. 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/youthscholarships](http://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youthscholarships).

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, 2024  
Completion of Post Judging: November 18, 2024  
Completion of District Judging: December 3, 2024  
To State Chairman Vince Gavin: December 9, 2024

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

### **NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

First Place -	\$35,000
Second Place -	\$21,000
Third Place -	\$15,000
4th through 36th Place -	\$7,000 to \$1,000
37th - 53rd Place -	\$1000

All of our Scholarship Programs are a great way for us to continue cultivating the passion of Americanism in the minds of our youth. The Nation built by today's youth will be passed on to future generations. They must protect and defend our Country's greatness, and by working together, this WILL be done, for ALL future generations.

### **PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST**

2024-2025: Theme is "MY VOICE IN AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY"

This program is provided to ALL students in 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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  
3360 Nashotks Road,  
Madison Township, PA. 18444  
email: [ta30chev@gmail.com](mailto:ta30chev@gmail.com)

**DEADLINES:** Entries to the sponsoring VFW Post- Midnight, October 31, 2024  
Post Judging complete- November 18, 2024  
District Judging complete- December 3, 2024  
To State Chairman Bill Lamond: December 9, 2024- District winner entry form,  
typed copy of essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

#### **DEPARTMENT AWARD**

First Place - \$400.00 and a Plaque

#### **NATIONAL AWARDS**

First	\$ 5,000.
Second	4,000.
Third	3,500.
Fourth through 53 <sup>rd</sup>	2,750. – 500.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

This scholarship is designed to assist Auxiliary members, their family, and our youth, helping defray the cost of a secondary education. It is ONLY awarded to a current Auxiliary member in good standing (and must be a member for at least one year), their spouse or child who has a financial need. This scholarship is paid DIRECTLY to the student's choice of an American College, University, or Vocational/Technical school. Applicant must be at least 21 years of age by 2/15/2025. This Scholarship is \$1,250 to one member from each of our four Conferences, to the school of their choice. Applications, information, and brochures can be found at our website: [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education), and if you are signed into MALTA, go into member resources for more information. Complete the application and write a

statement of 300 words or less describing your commitment to these goals, and how this accomplishment will assist you to better yourself through continuing education.

Please make sure this information is within reach of your Post/Auxiliary bulletin boards as well as your websites. Auxiliary, District and State levels, please be able to discuss this at your meetings and ask to share this information, so we can have more applicants apply for this program in the future. This money is within reach if you just apply. You may also apply through MALTA as well.

Mail your completed applications to:                   Program Awards Administrator  
  VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
  406 W. 34th St. 10th Floor  
  Kansas City, MO. 64111  
  Or email to: [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

#### **YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST**

This program is hosted by our Auxiliary and has been a work in progress for nearly 50 years. This is a two-dimensional art contest for our artists in grades 9-12. The age of the student at the time of entry may not exceed 19 years. While US Citizenship is NOT required, they must be a lawful US permanent resident (the application for which is not denied), and they intend to become a US Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over the age of 20, GE,D 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 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](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships).

This program gives our youth, our future tomorrow a chance to show off their talent, as well as their patriotism for our Country. National is offering 19 National scholarships ranging from

\$500 to \$15,000. These scholarships will be paid directly to the college, vocational/technical, or trade schools of the winner's choice. Applications and Instructions can be found at: [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-artcontest](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-artcontest) and by signing into MALTA Member Resources.

Each Auxiliary may sponsor one winner. District judging is not required in the State of PA. Please make sure while mailing your piece it is packaged safe, and secure to prevent any damage. These are very fragile and need to be packaged very carefully.

Mail item to me: Pam Sopher  
Department Scholarship Chairman  
110 South Kerr St.  
Titusville, PA. 16354

**DEADLINES:** Entries received by Local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2025  
Entries received by VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman by April 15, 2025

**PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP YOUR ENTRIES** at the conclusion of Department Conventions. If you are not able to do so, and have someone who will, please let me know the person who will be responsible for it in your absence.

#### **DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

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

#### **NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

First Place -	\$15,000
Second Place -	\$7,5000
Third Place -	\$3,500
Fourth Place -	\$2,500
Fifth and Sixth Place -	\$1,500
Seventh and Eighth Place -	\$1,000
Ninth to Nineteenth Place -	\$500

#### **3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST**

This is our newest program and involves our Patriotic artists in grades 9-12. Three - Dimensional may be art made of Papier-Mache, fabric, metal work, pottery, wood, etc. (See official rules for art forms that are allowed.) This competition is available to 9th-12th grade

students, enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school, or a home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of our US Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. The maximum age of the student at the time of entry may not exceed 19 years. While US Citizenship is Not required, they must be a lawful US permanent resident or have applied for permanent residence (the application of which has not been denied), and they intend to become a U.S. Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over the age of 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 pounds. 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. Brochure, applications and further information is available on our website: [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest), and can be found through MALTA member resources.

**DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

**NATIONAL AWARDS**

1st Place - \$1,500

2nd Place- \$1,000

3rd Place- \$1,000

4th Place- \$ 500

Please make sure this information is available to our members on all levels. You do not need to be a member to apply for this program, but we do need our members to promote this and ALL our programs. Entries must be received on time, if not they will be disqualified. Please adhere to THESE deadline dates.

**DEADLINES:** Entries to participating VFW Auxiliary, March 31, 2025.

Entries to VFW Auxiliary Chairman, April 15, 2025.

1<sup>st</sup> Place Dept. Winner to VFW National Headquarters May 5, 2025.

**New to these Programs** this year is a QR code to help the students access this information and any applicable application information faster and easier. If new to QR codes, use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code below to take you directly to this information.



Scan me for Scholarships!

## **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, POWER IS THE KEY**

### **NATIONAL AWARDS**

#### **AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

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

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Scholarship Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarship Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

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.

Winners will be announced and awards present at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

**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.**



## DEPARTMENT OF PA SCHOLARSHIP 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-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 in each membership division with the best promotion using the QR code. Must send to the Department Chairman no later than March 1, 2025 (Documentation to verify must be included).
6. **Star award** to the VFW Auxiliary using the most creative ways to benefit from establishing the QR code. (Documentation to verify must be included).