



**SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI**

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**JULY/AUGUST**

Welcome to the official first two months of the new year. I hope that you all had a great 2022-2023 year and are looking ahead to an even better 2023-2024 year!

Even with school not in session for the summer it is the perfect time to start getting in contact with teachers and principals to get them the information about this year's scholarship programs. In some instances, teachers will add the scholarship topics into their plans for the school year. It is a good idea to make sure that you are being proactive and getting the information to the teachers so they can as well be proactive. In addition, work with your community and set up a booth at a farmers' market, the local fair, or other summer celebrations to get the scholarship information in the hands of the families.

Here is a quick list of other ways that you can get the information out to the families:

- Contact your local newspaper and take out an ad that will run close to the beginning of school.
- Set up a meeting with your local homeschool network.
- Publish the scholarship information in your auxiliary's newsletter.
- Plan a back-to-school event to help with school supplies and provide scholarship information.
- Contact the schools in your area and coordinate a booth at your high school football games.

***Patriots Pen Essay Contest***

This is a VFW Sponsored contest, meaning that you should be working hand and hand with the VFW chairperson. The top National award for this Contest is \$5000. Students must be a Missouri resident and be in the 6th-8th grade. You can download the application and brochures from the national web page or order them from the VFW store. The deadline for this contest is OCTOBER 31. This year's theme is:

***How are you inspired by America?***

***Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest***

This is also a VFW sponsored contest. Make sure that you are working closely with the VFW chairperson. Students must be a Missouri resident and in grades 9-12. The top national prize is \$30,000 and all department winners will enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. The deadline for this contest is OCTOBER 31. This year's theme is: ***What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?***

Remember to be reporting your events as they are completed. Don't wait to put your reports in the online reporting system.

**SHOW ME TEAMWORK...AS WE WORK FOR OUR VETERANS**