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SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Welcome to the scholarship program! This program helps the VFW and Auxiliary make a connection with the youth of today. Through this program we give the youth of today a way to connect with veterans of the past; A way to create an understanding of what veterans have sacrificed to bring this country to where it is today. Along with an understanding of the importance of veterans; this program helps with the education of our youth and the pursuit to further their education.

Start Now

Getting these contests and scholarships in the hands of the right people is very important. Start now with getting information on these contests and scholarships out into the public. Don't wait until the last minute to promote your program. Here are some ideas on how to get these contests and scholarships in the limelight.

- Contact your local school counselors. Bring the application forms and brochures to the counselors and teachers so they have time to plan for students to work on these as part of their curriculum.
- Set up a time to get together with the Scouts in your area.
- Make sure that you are reaching out to the home-school association in your area.
- Take an ad out in your local newspaper with the information that is needed in order to successfully compete in these contests and scholarships.

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?***

Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy deadlines:
Student entries to local VFW post-October 31

Post Judging complete-November 15
District judging-December 15
Department judging complete-January 10
Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters-January 15

Continuing Education Scholarship

This \$1,000 Scholarship is available to Auxiliary members, Their spouses and their children. Those that have been a member for at least one year qualifies. Entrants must have financial need, be at least 18 years old, complete an application and submit an essay. The application must be sent to the National Headquarters by **February 15**. This application is available on the national website.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

This Contest is open to Children that are in grade 9-12th. The top national award of \$15,000. Students must attend school in Missouri. This patriotic art is two dimensional artwork on paper to canvas using various media. Students will have to submit an application and a short essay explaining the patriotic art. This contest deadline for students is **March 31st**.

Three-dimensional patriotic Art Contest

This contest is open for students in grades 9th-12th. Students must attend school in Missouri. For this art contest, students can use paper, papier-mâché, pottery, fabric, wood, metal, or other materials. This artwork must be turned in with a complete application and a short essay about their work. The deadline for this contest is **March 31**.

Young American Creative Art And 3-dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Deadlines

Student artwork to local VFW post-March 31
1st place auxiliary winner to department - April 15th
1st place Department winner to National-May 5

If your District is electing to judge at their level you must still have the 1st place winner to the department by April 15.

Missouri Past National President Scholarship

This Scholarship honors Mabel Tanner and Glennta Vogelsang who both served as National President to the auxiliary. There are two awards that are available to high school seniors. There is an \$1,000 and \$500 scholarship. The applicant must be directly related (meaning Sibling, child, grandchild, or great grandchild) to a current or deceased Missouri VFW or Auxiliary member, The applicant does not need to reside in Missouri for this scholarship. Applications are available on the National Website.

Pay Tribute to the Participates

The students that have completed your contest and scholarships have put so much time and effort into them. Make sure that you are recognizing them for all their hard work. Here are some ideas of ways you can let them know how grateful you are for their work.

- Have an award ceremony at the schools in your local area that participated.

- Have a dinner and invite the scholarship winners and participants.
- Put the names of the winners in your local Newspaper

Online Reporting

After you complete a project make sure you are going online and recording your project in the online reporting system. You should not wait to do all your online reporting until the last minute. Once you submit a report the department Chairperson will read them and accept or decline them. If they are declined I will contact you and let you know it was declined and give you suggestions on how to fix the report so that it can be accepted. Make sure those reports are complete and include as much detail as possible. Also, please include the chairperson name and telephone number in your online report. There isn't a specified place for this to be listed so please make sure that it gets put in the description section.

A message to all of you:

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. It is my pleasure to be your chairperson for the 2023-2024 year. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me so that I can help.

Together we can make this a great year!

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