

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Scholarship September-October 2023</h2>	<p>Melinda Ross 19688 Independence Rd Lebanon, MO 65536 (417) 322-1030 <a href="mailto:mross.4107@gmail.com">mross.4107@gmail.com</a></p>
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I hope to find you all deep into the scholarship program for 2023-2024 year.

Now that school is back in session 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. Reach out to the radio stations that are in your area and have them do a broadcast about the scholarship program and what is available for the children in your community.

Be creative and come up with some new ways to put a spotlight on the scholarship program. Here are some examples that I have come across through the online reporting.

- During schedule pick up for the middle school and High school a booth was set up for students and parents to stop and get more information about the program.
- The superintendent of the local school district has approved for us to be set up outside the pep rallies for the football games.
- There was a back-to-school event in the community. We asked if we could be involved and set up a booth to hand out supplies and also the scholarship application forms. There were 150 handed out during the event.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for going above and beyond for our scholarship programs. Keep up the great work.

### **First Scholarships to be awarded in 2023 - 2024 year are Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy.**

#### ***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. The deadline for his 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. 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**