

Scholarships Department of Missouri

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By now you should have contacted your local schools about the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contests. If not, it's not too late to get the word out. Put a notice in your local newspaper. Talk to co-workers, home-school associations, youth sports teams and church youth groups. Plaster it all over Facebook. Pass out information about the scholarships during your Family Freedom Festival.

Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest – theme is “Why is the Veteran Important?”

This is an audio essay competition that gives students an opportunity to submit a recording of their thoughts. The student deadline is **October 31**. Students must be Missouri residents and in grades 9-12. What a great way to hear young voices preserve the legacy of American patriots and describe their understanding of democracy!

Patriot's Pen Written-Essay Contest – theme is “My Pledge to Our Veterans”

This is a youth essay competition that gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views. The student deadline is **October 31**. Students must be Missouri residents and in grades 6-8. This contest allows young Americans the opportunity to advocate patriotism through written words.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman's Manual is available through a link on the department website (vfwauxmo.org). It contains information on promoting the contests and judging the student entrees. I suggest you download a copy. Student applications for both contests are available online or through the VFW Store.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

There are now two art contests. One is for canvas or paper artwork and the other is for 3-dimensional artwork. Both contests are open to Missouri students in grades 9-12 and have a **March 31** deadline. Students will need to submit a typed explanation of the entry with their artwork. Brochures and entry forms for both contests are available on the department website (vfwauxmo.org). I look forward to seeing all the creative artwork our students design.

Continuing Education Scholarship

This is an excellent way to help one of our own members continue their education and it covers colleges and vocational/technical schools. This scholarship is available to auxiliary members, their spouse and their children. The application is due to **National Headquarters** by **February 15**. A brochure/application is available on the department website (vfwauxmo.org).

Missouri Past National President's Scholarship

This scholarship honors Mabel Tanner and Glenneta Vogelsang who both served as National President to the VFW Auxiliary. Two awards (\$1,800 and \$1,200) are available to high school seniors. The applicants must be related (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) to a current or deceased Missouri VFW or Auxiliary member. For this scholarship, the applicant does not need to reside in Missouri. The application is available on the department website (vfwauxmo.org) and is due to me by **April 15, 2023**.

Family Freedom Festival

Have information about all six of our scholarships and be ready to talk to students and parents. You can have a patriotic poetry contest for the older kids and then hand out information about the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen when they turn in their poem. For the art contest have colored pencils and paper available for a drawing contest and play dough for a 3-D sculpture contest. Award the winners with some patriotic school supplies.

Note: If you do not have access to the internet and need an application for any of our scholarships or if you need help with your online reporting, please call me and I will help you.