

# Scholarships Department of Missouri

**July-August 2022**



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Teachers start planning their school year in the summer, so now's the time to get the word out about our contests. Many teachers will make the contests part of their agenda if they know about it soon enough. Team up with your post scholarship chairperson to help get the word out. Even though the art contests aren't due until March, be sure to let the schools know about them now – students need time to create their masterpiece!

Along with spreading the word at schools, be sure to put the information in your post newsletter, make a Facebook post that all your members can share, put an article in the newspaper and put flyers on local bulletins in businesses and churches. If you tell parents about the contests, they will encourage their child to enter.

Consider hosting a Teacher Appreciation breakfast this summer to thank teachers for all the work they do and be sure to have an information table set up with contest brochures and rules/guidelines. Or put packages together so you can pass them out during your Family Freedom Festival. You can order Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures and posters from the VFW store. Brochures for the art contests can be ordered free of charge from the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

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

The theme is **Why is the Veteran Important?** and the student deadline is **October 31**. Students must be Missouri residents 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. This contest was established in 1947 and is well-respected by educators.

## **Patriot's Pen Written-Essay Contest**

The theme this year is **My Pledge to Our Veterans** and the top national award is \$5,000. The student deadline is **October 31**. Students must be a Missouri resident and be in grades 6-8.

## **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests**

There are now two separate art contests – one for two-dimensional artwork and another for three-dimensional artwork. Be sure to plan ahead and have funds available so you can award prizes in both contests. The contests are open to students in grades 9-12 and the student must be a Missouri resident. The two-dimensional contest has a top national award of \$15,000 and the three-dimensional contest has a top prize of \$2,500. The artwork should be designed with a patriotic theme and students will submit an application and a short essay about the patriotism expressed in the art. The student deadline for both contests is **March 31**.

Make sure you understand the rules and eligibility for each contest before you speak with teachers, parents and/or students about the contest. They will have questions and you need to have the answers ready.