



Scholarship
Department of Missouri 2025-2026 Program Book
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Congratulations to the new 2025-2026 Scholarship Chairmen who will be traveling down the “Yellow Brick Road” with me this year. Along our journey we will be stopping at many places as we travel through Oz to meet the “Wizard”. We will begin our travels on June 21, 2025, stopping at one of the four Department Schools of Instructions to learn more information about our duties and programs. Then we will be off to our local schools, libraries, churches, newspapers, and computers to get on Facebook pages and other organizations that you might be affiliated with to tell everyone all about our Scholarships that are available to children in grades 6 - 12. Then we will attend our Auxiliary and District meetings to inform our members about the Scholarships that are available to them and to their children. Let me start by waving my sparkling wand and come up with some magical information to spread to you.

The **Continuing Education Scholarship** is our National President Lois Calahan’s Special Project. This scholarship is open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least one full year) their spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. The entrant must be 21 years of age, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less describing your commitment to your goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals. The application will be available on the Department website: www.vfwauxmo.org **The application and essay are due February 15, 2026.** Email the application and the essay to: info@vfwauxiliary.org \$1,250.00 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the 4 Conferences. It is a great idea to vote in your regularly scheduled meeting to make a donation to the Scholarship fund at the Department and National level.

The **Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art** contest are for children in grades 9-12. State Awards will range from \$100- \$500. National Awards will range from \$400.00- \$15,000.00. Local Auxiliaries and Post along with Districts will set their own prize amounts. District judging is OPTIONAL and not all Districts participate in judging. However, if your District does participate it will be the responsibility of the District Chairman to deliver the 1st Place winning Art to the Department Chairman. If your District does not participate, it is the Auxiliary’s Chairmans’ responsibility to deliver the 1st Place winning Art to the Department Chairman. Official forms and contest rules can be found under scholarship resources for the Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art on the Department website: www.vfwauxmo.org or on the National website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/> **NEW THIS YEAR:** 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art has a requirement that the students submit a photo of their

art prior to mailing to National Headquarters. Why? Because each year, National sadly receives broken art, and in order to judge students' beautiful art work they need to see what the art was truly meant to look like. I would like to stress the importance of packing this precious cargo. Let's get the word out to our students, parents, teachers and others about just how crucial it is to carefully pack these fragile pieces, and all art pieces, as they can get damaged in the mail. The last thing National wants to do is inform a student that their hard work was damaged or destroyed when they received it.

Art is due from the students to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2026

District judging is OPTIONAL and if the District participates they will set their own due date.

Art is due to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2026

The Department Chairman must submit the 1st Place winner to National by May 5, 2026

The Missouri Past National Presidents' Scholarship Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. The Department of Missouri has three special ladies, Mable Tanner, Glenneta Vogelsang and Brenda Bryant who have served as the National President for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. To honor the years of their service, the Department of Missouri offers an \$1,800.00 Scholarship and a \$1,200.00 Scholarship to two deserving High School Seniors who are the **sister, brother, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, great-granddaughter, or great grandson of a current member of the Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary or VFW.** To apply for this scholarship students shall submit the following information to the Department Chairmen no later than April 15, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED.

1. Complete Application
2. A letter of recommendation from your High School Principal, Counselor, Teacher, or Home School Teacher
3. A copy of your High School Transcript
4. A brief essay highlighting your Community Involvement, Volunteer Activities, Honors you have received, and any organizations you participated in or outside of School.

You will find the application on the department website: www.vfwauxmo.org

The VFW has many Scholarships that we help them promote as we work alongside them. It is my pleasure to announce that my Department counterpart is Roger Floyd from VFW Post #257 Eldorado Springs in District #7. Have an open line of communication to collaborate with your counterparts because we are a team. We help each other, we give them information on our scholarships and they give us information on their scholarships. We have something **NEW** this year. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen Essay contests have the same theme.

The 2025-2026 Theme is: "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

The **Patriot's Pen** is an essay contest for children in grades 6-8. State awards range from \$150.00-\$700.00 National awards range from \$500.00-\$5,000.00 Local Auxiliaries and Posts along with Districts will set their own prize amounts. This contest encourages young minds to examine America's history along with their own experiences in modern American society by drafting a 300-400 word essay expressing their views based on a patriotic theme. Students who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study programs in the United States, Its Territories and Possessions; or dependents of U.S.Military or Civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students MUST be lawful U.S. Permanent Residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign Exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest) One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

The **Voice of Democracy** is an audio-essay contest for children in grades 9-12. State awards range from \$300.00-\$2,400.00. National awards range from \$1,000.00-\$35,000.00. Local Auxiliaries and Posts along with Districts will set their own prize amounts. This contest provides students with the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic themed recorded essay. The students are not only judged on writing skills but also on the delivery of the speech. Students who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study programs in the United States, Its Territories and Possessions; or dependents of U.S.Military or Civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students MUST be lawful U.S. Permanent Residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign Exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous Voice of Democracy 1st Place State winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible). One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines for both the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy:

Entries to VFW Post -October 31, 2025

Post Judging Complete- November 15, 2025

District Judging- District Chairman will set the date of judging

Department Judging Complete- January 10, 2026

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters- January 15, 2026

All District Winners will be invited to attend the Department Voice of Democracy Banquet. (date TBD). Official forms and rules for both contests will be found on the Department website: www.vfwauxmo.org or on the National VFW website:

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

The “**Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship**” was introduced in 2013. This VFW program awards scholarships to qualifying service members and Veterans with financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive debt. Official forms and eligibility are on the VFW website:

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

Department Awards will be presented at the Department Convention June 2026

There will be two winners in each membership group:

Group 1 : 10-50 Members

Group 2 : 51-85 Members

Group 3 : 86-150 Members

Group 4 : 151 or More Members

1st Place - \$20 and a Citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 membership groups

2nd Place - A Citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 membership groups

Auxiliaries will win 1st or 2nd place awards for their Outstanding Projects for the Scholarship Programs as well as for working with your VFW Counterpart.

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!!! REPORT AFTER EVERY PROJECT THAT YOU DO!

Remember to make your yearly donations to all the scholarships. We need your donations to continue to present the awards to the children. Please reach out to me by email or texting if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you. As we travel down the “YellowBrick Road” we will “Be the Reason A Veteran Smiles Today” “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans-Who Keep Us Free”.



Use this QR Code to promote the Scholarship Programs. Copy it and make flyers to post in schools, local businesses, Churches, Libraries and the YMCA.

Glenda the Good Witch--AKA--Danetta