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## Scholarships

### Department of Missouri

This program is a wonderful way to help with the education of our nation's youth and it shines a positive light on the VFW and Auxiliary. The program is made up of four contests and two scholarships. You will need to let local schools know about the program as soon as possible. Many teachers will make the contest part of their agenda if they know about it soon enough. Teachers start planning their school year in the summer, so now's the time to get the word out. An article in the newspaper will let homeschoolers know about the contest – you can announce the theme and deadlines. Make sure you understand the rules and eligibility for each contest before you speak with teachers, parents and/or students about the contest.

### Get the Word Out!

The first step with the Scholarship program is to identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss the scholarship opportunities. Here are some suggestions for finding students who might be interested in the VFW Auxiliary Scholarships and Contests:

- Schools (public and private)
- JROTC units
- Church youth groups
- Youth-focused organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs or Scouts
- Home-school associations
- Youth sports teams
- Parent/Teacher associations
- High School counselors
- Student veteran centers

### Continuing Education Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship is available to auxiliary members, their spouse and their children. Anyone who has been a member for at least one year qualifies. Entrant must have financial need, be at least 18 years old, complete the application (available online) and submit an essay. The application should be sent to **National Headquarters by February 15**. This is an excellent way to help one of our own members continue their education and it covers colleges and vocational/technical schools. If you know of any member (spouse or child) attending school, let them know about this excellent opportunity. The application is available on the national website.

### **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**

This contest is open to students in grades 9-12 and has a top national award of \$15,000. Students must attend school in Missouri. This is for two-dimensional patriotic artwork on canvas or paper using various media. Along with the artwork, students will submit an application and a short essay about the patriotism expressed in the art. The deadline for students is **March 31**.

### **Three-dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**

This contest is open to students in grades 9-12 and has a top national award of \$2,500. Students must attend school in Missouri. Students can use paper, papier-mâché, pottery, fabric, wood, metal, or other materials. Along with the artwork, students will submit an application and a short essay about the artwork. The deadline for students is **March 31**. In the past this was included in the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest – now it is a separate contest.

### **Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Deadlines:**

Student artwork to local VFW Post – March 31

1<sup>st</sup> place auxiliary winner to Department – April 15

1<sup>st</sup> place department winner to National – May 5

Note: your district may elect to judge at the district level, however, the first-place winner still needs to be to the Department by April 15.

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

This is a VFW-sponsored contest, so you will work side by side with your VFW chairperson to get the word out to students, teachers, and parents. 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. You can order informational brochures from the VFW store or download them from the national website. This contest allows young Americans the opportunity to advocate patriotism through written words and fresh eyes. Theme is **My Pledge to Our Veterans**

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

This is also a VFW-sponsored contest, so work with your Post chairperson to get the information to the students. 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. What a great way to hear young voices preserve the legacy of American patriots and describe their understanding of democracy. Theme is **Why is the Veteran Important?**

### **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Deadlines:**

Student entries to local VFW Post – October 31

Post Judging Complete – November 15

District Judging Complete – December 15

Department Judging Complete – January 10

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

## **Missouri Past National President 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 (sibling, 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. Applications are available on the department website.

## **Recognize your participants**

Host an awards ceremony or present awards at a school assembly. Let the students know how grateful you are that they took the time and effort to participate in our contest. Contact local media to feature winners in the news. Also thank the teachers and parents; without their push many students would not enter the contest.

## **National President's Special Project**

Currently the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest only awards the top 13 entries at the National level and the Three-Dimensional Contest only awards the top three National winners. Funds are being collected so that more youth can be recognized at the National level. Please consider having a special fundraiser for the Art Contests Escrow Fund so that all participants are rewarded for their effort. Get creative while raising funds – hold a paint and sip night, host a sewing party to make lap blankets, or organize a craft show! Donations (earmarked Patriotic Art) should be sent to:

VFW National Headquarters  
Attn: Patriotic Art Fund  
406 W 34<sup>th</sup> St, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

## **Scholarship Program Awards**

Awards will be given at the Department level for the most outstanding program/project and for the outstanding scholarship chairman.

National will award a citation to every Auxiliary that promotes and/or participates in the Three-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. One Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences will receive an award for the most outstanding promotion and/or participation in the Three-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest.