



Department of Missouri VFW
Auxiliary
Youth Activities

January / February 2025

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“Highlight”

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA ART CONTEST

“Creativity is as important as literacy.” – Sir Ken Robinson

It’s hard to believe that 2025 is upon us! Now is the time to encourage our younger youth to use their creativity and show their patriotism by entering the VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contest. Speak with your local schools, churches, scout troops and clubs and provide them with contest information.



The Illustrating America Art Contest is open to any student in grades K-8 who is enrolled in public, private, or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Students must be a U.S. citizen or lawful U.S. permanent resident. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible.

- Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique
- Contest will consist of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8
- Entries are due to Auxiliaries by **March 31, 2025**
- **First place winner** from each grade division due to Department by **April 15, 2025**

There has been a change made to the rules form – It is now **Required** that the student’s name, age and grade level be written on the back of every art entry. The updated entry form and contest rules are included in these General Orders and can also be found at vfwauxmo.org, under Youth Activities.

As we involve our youth in **“Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap With Teamwork”**, let us never forget that **“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans”** is the reason we exist.



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America Art Contest

2024-2025

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

Contest Eligibility

- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate
- Students in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program 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 resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest Awards

Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

VFW Auxiliary judging dates and deadlines:

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- **April 15:** First place winner from each grade division from participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or **optional** VFW Auxiliary District advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state) for judging.
- **May 5:** First place winner from grade division from each Department (state) due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.
- **July/August:** All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winning entries in each grade division will be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America Art Contest

Contest Entry Form

2024-2025

Please print or type
 Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____

Media used: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules.

Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contact email: _____

To avoid entrant disqualification

This section is to be filled out completely and correctly by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.
 VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts **Department** level first-place winning entries.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & Number: _____ **Dept. of:** _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____ Date: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: Optional VFW Auxiliary District judging.

VFW Auxiliary District judging verification signature: _____ Date: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each grade division from participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or **optional** VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the Department for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman judging verification signature: _____ Date: _____

VFW Auxiliary Department Pres., Sec. and/or Treas. verification signature: _____ Date: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: Final Level Deadline First place winner from each grade division from VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

Attention: Program Awards Administrator.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winning entries in each grade division will be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.