



**Department of Missouri VFW
Auxiliary
Youth Activities**

July / August 2024

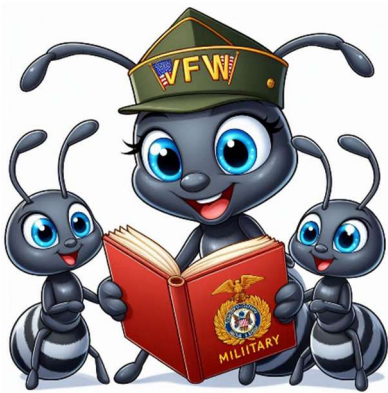
Lori Suiter
11703 E 37th St S
Independence, MO 64052
816-805-2245
lsuiter5576@gmail.com

Here we are halfway through the summer, and a new school year is upon us! Now is the time to begin reaching out to your local youth groups, schoolteachers and homeschool groups as they are planning activities for the coming year. Let them know what activities your Post and Auxiliary may need assistance with and encourage them to take part.

Consider holding a school supply drive and a patriotic back to school bash. You could have games and snacks, pass out school supplies that have been collected as well as a patriotic book. Have fun with it!

Independence Day is also fast approaching! Encourage your local JROTC and Scout Troops to participate in a parade or help serve a meal to veterans. Get them involved!

“Highlight”



Youth Reading to Veterans & Veterans Reading to Youth

*“Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader.”
Margaret Fuller*

Reading is an important part of our lives, no matter what the age, and is the foundation for all we learn. As an Auxiliary, we have not only an opportunity, but an obligation to teach America’s youth patriotism and American history. We can do this through books and personal stories!

- Partner with veterans within your Post home and host a day of reading. Have veterans read to the children, and children read to the veterans. A perfect day for this would be National Read a Book Day on September 6, 2024.
- When visiting or volunteering at a VA or nursing facility speak with the staff about setting up a time to have children visit and read to the veterans and residents. Not only would this give children practice at reading, but they would learn kindness and compassion, as well as hearing firsthand accounts of history from our veterans.

If you go to vfwauxmo.org under Youth Activities, you will find the Patriotism Through Literacy book list that has various patriotic themed books that are divided up by grade levels Pre-K through 12th grade. You can look for them at your local library or find them at the bookstore or online, but you are not limited to just these books.

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.