



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities

May/June

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A brand new year of reporting is upon us, and I'm excited to get started! My name is Lori Suiter, and I will be your 2024-2025 Youth Activities Department Chairman.

Our youth are the future of our country. They are impressionable, and we as Auxiliary members are in a unique position to mold and teach our young people the principles upon which our nation was founded. We can lead by example while serving our veterans, service members and their families.

As you begin to plan your activities for the coming year, find ways to include your local youth. When involving entire families, they will feel welcomed and included, and in turn can bring new membership.

Examples of Youth Groups you can work with:

- School Clubs
- Youth sports teams
- After school programs
- Home School Association
- Church youth groups
- Scouting programs
- JROTC
- Youth community service groups

Reading is a big part of growing up and learning. The Patriotism Through Literacy program offers us the opportunity to not only interact with young people, but teach them about patriotism. You can do this by hosting a read-a-thon, book drive, donate books to a library, school or shelter, or volunteer to read at your local library or school.



You can also team up with your Post members and host a "Reading Party" for youth to read to veterans and veterans to read to the youth. This can happen at your Post home, local library, church, etc. You can find a list of patriotic books divided by grade level that you can refer to at vfwauxmo.org under Youth Activities.

Don't forget to recognize the youth groups you work with, and individual youth for their patriotism with the **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation** and **Patriotic Youth Award**, as well as the **Random Acts of Patriotism** cards for your littlest youth!

The **Illustrating America Art Contest** is open to any student in grades K-8. Due date to the Auxiliary will be March 31, 2025.



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.