



Department of Missouri VFW  
Auxiliary  
Youth Activities

September / October 2024

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**“Highlight”**

**TEAMWORK**

We have the opportunity to include Youth in so many ways within each of our programs. Your chairmen and members can work together to find unique ways to do that. Below are two examples of promoting Youth Activities within another program.



The “Buddy”® Poppy Contest at the Fall Council of Administration this year will be a Christmas ornament contest and will include a division for Youth. The theme for the ornaments will be Patriotic and there will be two categories: Made by Youth (age 15 and below) and made by an Adult (age 16 and up). Ornament can be any size/shape. (This can hang on a tree or be a table/door decoration.)

Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with a tag on the ornament. Include an envelope with Adult or Youth on outside and on the inside put Auxiliary number, number of members, number of poppies used, number of hours spent making ornament. DO NOT add anything to your ornament that will identify the person or Auxiliary that made it.

Another program that benefits our youth is Scholarship. Two specific contest deadlines that are coming up on October 31, 2024, are:

- VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest, Theme: “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?” Grades 9-12
- VFW Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest, Theme: “My Voice in America’s Democracy” Grades 6-8



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.