



Department of Missouri VFW



Auxiliary Youth Activities 2025-2026 ➡➡ Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher ➡➡ 816-606-3306

5702 NW Raintree Ct, Kansas City, MO 64152 ➡➡ Jennierw.mo.youthchairman@gmail.com

Well, Hello There and Welcome!

My dear friends, families, and all you fine folks gathered here today,

I can't tell you how pleased I am to welcome y'all to this year's VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Program. Now, I may not be one for big speeches, but I do know a thing or two about the importance of raising up good-hearted, hard-working young people—and that's exactly what this program is all about.

You see, our youth are the future of this great country. They're like tender shoots in the garden—impressionable, full of promise, and just waitin' for the right kind of care to help 'em grow strong. And we, as members of the Auxiliary, well, we're in a mighty special position. We get to teach them the values this nation was built on—honor, service, and love of country—just by showin' up, lendin' a hand, and leadin' by example.

Sowin' Seeds of Service

One of the best ways we can help our young folks is by workin' right alongside them. Whether it's school clubs, scout troops, church youth groups, or even homeschoolers, there's no shortage of bright-eyed helpers out there just waitin' for a chance to pitch in. And let me tell you, when you bring a whole family into the fold, you're not just buildin' a program—you're buildin' a community.

So don't be shy about invitin' youth to help with our projects. They can march in parades, visit veterans, rake leaves, write letters to troops, or even help pack care packages. And when they do, be sure to thank 'em kindly and let 'em know just how much their efforts mean.

Readin', Writin', and Rememberin'

Now, I've always believed there's nothin' quite like a good book to stir the soul. That's why our Patriotism Through Literacy program is near and dear to my heart. It gives us a chance

to share stories of our nation's heroes, teach history in a way that sticks, and spark a love of readin' that'll last a lifetime.

You can read to the young'uns at the library, host a book drive, or even invite a local author to share their story. And don't forget—veterans can read to the kids, and the kids can read right back. It's a beautiful way to bridge the generations.

Creativity and Kindness

We've also got the Illustrating America Art Contest, where students from kindergarten through eighth grade can show their patriotic spirit through art. And let me tell you, some of those drawings will just melt your heart.

And when you see a young'un doin' something kind or patriotic, don't let it go unnoticed. Hand 'em a Random Act of Patriotism card or give 'em a Patriotic Youth Award. A little recognition goes a long way in encouragin' good behavior.

Buildin' Bridges, One Heart at a Time

This year, we're focusin' on "Working Together for the Benefit of Our Veterans." And I can't think of a better way to do that than by bringin' our youth into the fold. Whether it's readin' to veterans, helpin' with yard work, or just sharin' a smile, every little act of kindness helps build a stronger, more carin' community.

And don't forget—there are awards to be won, both here in Missouri and all across the country, for Auxiliaries that go above and beyond in their youth work. But more important than any prize is the pride we feel knowin' we've helped shape the next generation of patriots.

Workin' Together for the Benefit of Our Veterans

As we look to the future, let's remember what brings us together. Let's keep workin' side by side—reaching out, liftin' up, and showin' our youth what it means to serve with heart. Because when we do, we're not just teachin' history—we're livin' it.

With all my love and gratitude,

Auntie Em (a.k.a. [Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher])
Youth Activities Chair

