



Department of Missouri
Auxiliary
Youth Activities Program
2025-2026

Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher
5702 NW Raintree CT
Kansas City, MO 64152
816-606-3306
Jennierw.mo.youthchairman@gmail.com

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss.

To My Dear Auxiliary Ozians,

Whether you are a Munchkin, Winkie, Quadling, Gillikin, or Ozian, you are warmly welcomed here in the Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary. Just as the Land of Oz thrives on unity and diversity, so do we. Together, we share a common purpose: to celebrate patriotism and foster connections across generations.

Our programs and initiatives are designed to inspire and engage. Here are some of the wonderful opportunities awaiting you:

Patriotism through Reading: Instilling a love for country and history through shared stories.

- The VFW Auxiliary's "Patriotism through Reading" initiative is a wonderful program designed to promote literacy and patriotism among youth. It encourages children to explore historical fiction and creative non-fiction that highlight America's history, values, and heroes. Through books, young readers can immerse themselves in different time periods, gain perspective, and develop a deeper understanding of the nation's past and present.
- The program offers various activities, such as donating books to schools and libraries, hosting read-a-thons, organizing book clubs, and inviting authors to speak. It also encourages youth to write their own stories or interview veterans to learn and share their experiences. You can find more details and suggested book lists through links attached below.

Youth Groups: Empowering young minds to take an active role in their communities.

- Here are some examples of how youth can take active roles in their communities and empower themselves:
- Community Clean-Ups: Organizing events to clean parks, streets, or public spaces, fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in their surroundings.
- Advocacy for Social Issues: Raising awareness and taking action on topics like mental health, education, or environmental sustainability.
- Volunteering: Participating in local initiatives such as food drives, tutoring programs, or animal shelters.
- Youth Leadership Programs: Joining or creating groups that focus on leadership development and civic engagement.
- Creative Projects: Using art, music, or writing to express ideas and inspire changes within their communities.

These activities not only benefit the community but also help young individuals develop essential skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Youth Reading to Veterans and Veterans Reading to Youth: Bridging generations with shared experiences and cherished books.

- Bring generations together by organizing story time events, book clubs, or patriotic read-alouds. Youth can read to veterans, and veterans can share cherished stories or personal experiences, fostering meaningful connections and shared learning.

Illustrating America: Encouraging creativity through art that reflects our nation's spirit.

- The contest typically focuses on patriotic themes and encourages students to express their creativity through art that reflects their love for America. You can keep an eye on updates and details about the contest on the <https://vfwauxmo.org/> or through local VFW Auxiliaries. Due March 2026.

Patriotic Youth Award: Honoring young individuals who exemplify dedication to patriotism.

- Recognize youth who show patriotism through activities like community service, educational programs, creative projects, volunteering, and acts of kindness that honor veterans and celebrate America.
 - Organizing flag-raising ceremonies.
 - Volunteering at veterans' events.
 - Writing essays or creating patriotic art.
 - Participating in community service projects.
 - Showing respect for the flag and veterans through small acts.

Random Acts of Patriotism: Spreading kindness and pride for our country in everyday actions.

- These small gestures can inspire pride and unity while celebrating the spirit of patriotism.
 - Displaying the flag respectfully at home or during events.
 - Thanking veterans or active service members for their contributions.
 - Participating in community service projects that honor the nation.
 - Sharing patriotic stories or history with others.
 - Supporting local businesses that contribute to the community.

Together, we are building a community where patriotism comes to life through collaboration, creativity, and connection. No matter which region of Oz you call home, you are an essential part of our shared journey.

"Follow the yellow brick road, dear traveler, to Youth Activities, where the wonders of reading shall guide you to the great and powerful OZ him or herself!"

With boundless enthusiasm and deepest appreciation,

Aunt Em

Youth Activities Chair

Department of Missouri Auxiliary

Book List Links:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Suggested-Book-List.pdf>

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotism-Through-Literacy-Suggested-Books-2022.pdf>