

Youth Activities Promotion #2 | October 2023  
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The 2023-2024 VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Program as promoted by our Department Youth Activities Chairmen is outstanding! I am so proud that you have found creative ways to introduce the youth to patriotism. Keep up the great work.

But, focusing on the four areas of working with our youth as set out in this Program is not the only way that we can work with our youth.

Now that school is back in session, many older students are tasked with selling items to help achieve goals set out for them in groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, basketball, football or baseball teams, marching bands, school choirs, dance students—so many youth activities that we can help. Did you know that purchasing just one box of Girl Scout cookies results in a portion of the cost being given back to that scout for camp? Purchasing a discount food card from youth teams helps them to purchase much needed safety equipment or uniforms. Parents and other individuals working in marching band concession stands during football games also help with transportation costs, uniforms and other needed items for competitions. So, let's think about the many ways that we can help our older youth.

Also, with schools open it brings our attention to much needed school supplies, not only by our youth but our teachers; teachers are having to spend their dollars for items needed in their classrooms. Could your Auxiliary help in any way? I have had numerous reports that Auxiliaries are having school supply drives, giving out backpacks with grade appropriate school supplies. Ever thought of adopting a classroom? Obviously, you will want to talk with the teacher to determine if she/he would like that assistance, however, I doubt you will be turned down. Teachers truly appreciate any assistance with supplies which would help their students learn during the school year. Adopting a classroom could also help you in getting our **Patriotism Through Literacy** started which could lead to other teachers wanting assistance in their classrooms. The younger elementary youth have reading time and you could volunteer by reading to them a book on patriotism and then donating that book to the teacher classroom library or the school library.

Also take an opportunity to promote Auxiliary contests like Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! And Illustrating America.

I so appreciate the great work that is being reported to me about working with our youth so keep the reports coming. Thank you.