

SCHOLARSHIPS AMBASSADOR



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As VFW Auxiliary members, we are honored to make available scholarships to help offset the cost of further education for Auxiliary members, their immediate family and our youth. See that they get every chance available to achieve their dreams and grow their future as tomorrow's leaders.

Continuing Education Scholarship

- This scholarship is available to Auxiliary members, their spouses and children.
- Qualifying Auxiliary members must have been members for one year by the application submission in order to apply.
- Applicants must be in financial need to continue/return to college or vocational/technical/trade schools.
- Must be 21 years of age by February 15, 2024.

The Continuing Education Scholarship is \$1,250 and is awarded to one winner in each of the four Conferences. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

Let's make Auxiliary members aware on Department/Auxiliary websites, in newsletters, at Post Homes and on social media. Reach out in our communities and inform other Veteran Service Organizations to assist in getting our Continuing Education Scholarship information. Brochures and applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/ and in MALTA Member Resources. Let's work to see that National Headquarters receives more than 100 applications to judge.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest has been promoted by the Auxiliary for almost half a century. The Auxiliary is proud to offer this two-dimensional art contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest now offers 19 National Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. All scholarships are paid to the college or vocational/technical/trade schools of winners' choice. Brochures and applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/ and in MALTA Member Resources.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art is the Auxiliary's "new kid" in the Scholarships Program. We are proud to offer this contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12. Offering four National Scholarships: \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second place, \$1,000 for third place and \$500 for fourth place. Paid to the college of winners' choice. Three-Dimensional art accepts paper, papier-mâché, fabric, metalwork, pottery, wood, etc. Brochures and applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/ and in MALTA Member Resources.

As Auxiliary members, we need to circulate information about our two Patriotic Art contests through Auxiliary/Department newsletters, websites, social media and at Post Homes. We need to think outside the box and reach out in our communities. Promote at locations where parents/guardians and grandparents take their children such as the library, sporting complex, bowling alley, skating rink, etc. Our young artists are very talented and imaginative. Let's help them express their feelings of patriotism through art. Help them use their artistic talents to climb to the most amazing future.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art contest Escrow Fund

Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art Contest escrow funds need more funding so that we may acknowledge and reward more of our young patriotic artists at the National level. We all need to get the word out and work together with our Posts, Districts and in our communities to raise funds. Hold fundraisers, distribute collection jars and provide information at various community events, businesses and churches.

Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

Auxiliaries are here to honor and respect our veterans and service members. One way we do that is by helping promote and participate in rewarding all Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship contest participants. Students from public, parochial and home study programs compete through written and oral essays. Students learn patriotism, to communicate better, to express themselves and to excel, making them strong, confident and ready to be future leaders. Get out and promote these scholarships in your schools and communities and provide all those interested with rules and guidelines. Visit vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships for more information.

Celebrate and recognize all participants, students, teachers, parents, members and local media who support the Scholarships Program. The VFW store offers certificates and items for awards. Shop the VFW Store online at vfwstore.org. Hold events at your Post and invite all those who have helped promote the contests including youth group leaders, community leaders, businesses and teachers. Invite your local media to attend and cover award events. We want everyone to know what scholarships the Auxiliary and the VFW have to offer.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Student Participation • Recipient Recognition • Community Awareness • Increasing the Fund

Each of our scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members.

Continuing Education Scholarship

Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 21 years old, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. **The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15:**

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email it to info@vfwauxiliary.org
\$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available from Department Scholarships Chairmen or in MALTA Member Resources.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest AND 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

Open to any student in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please see the student brochure in MALTA Member Resources for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines for Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art:

Entries received by:

**Participating VFW Auxiliary – March 31
(District Judging is OPTIONAL)**

VFW Auxiliary Department – April 15

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – May 5

National Scholarships: Young American Patriotic Art

First Place – \$15,000

Second Place – \$7,500

Third Place – \$3,500

Fourth Place – \$2,500

Fifth and Sixth Place – \$1,500

Seventh and Eighth Place – \$1,000

Ninth through Nineteenth Place – \$500

National Scholarships-3-Dimensional Patriotic Art

First place - \$2,500

Second place - \$1,500 NEW!

Third place - \$1,000

Fourth place - \$500

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice. Please promote this contest in your area. We have talented and creative artists waiting to be discovered.

Please note that the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is an additional scholarship and separate from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. See the official rules for art forms that are accepted for this contest.

Recognition Is Key

It is important that scholarship winners receive recognition at every level.

Ways to Recognize Winners:

- Present a certificate and/or gift.
- Ask the winner to give a speech or lead the Pledge of Allegiance at an Auxiliary event.
- Host an awards ceremony.
- Present awards at a school assembly.
- Contact local media to feature winners in the news.
 - Sample press releases available online in MALTA Member Resources.
- Invite winners to participate in a Conference.
- Don't forget to recognize the parents and teachers!

To Donate to the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund

Log in to MALTA. Click on "Make a Gift."
Select Patriotic Art

or

Mail checks earmarked Patriotic Art to:
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111

2023-2024 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Theme: What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?

Open to students in grades 9-12 by the October 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31
Post Judging Complete – November 15
Department Judging Complete – January 10
Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

National Awards:

First Place – \$35,000 scholarship
Second Place – \$21,000 scholarship
Third Place – \$15,000 scholarship
Fourth through 36th Place – \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship
37th - 53rd Place – \$1,000 scholarship

2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Theme: How Are You Inspired by America?

Open to students in grades 6-8, by the October 31 deadline who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.) One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31
Post Judging Complete – November 15
Department Judging Complete – January 10
Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

National Awards:

First Place – \$5,000
Second Place – \$4,000
Third Place – \$3,500
Fourth through 53rd Place – \$2,750 to \$500

Scholarship and Contest Resources

Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources:

- VFW website:
vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- MALTA Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website:
vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
- Promotions from National Ambassador
- VFW Store: vfwstore.org or 1-833-VFW-VETS

Get The Word Out!

The first step is to identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss scholarship opportunities. The following are a few suggestions of groups that might be interested in what you have to say:

- Schools and JROTC Units
- Faith-based youth groups
- Youth-focused organizations
- Home-school associations
- Parent-teacher associations
- Youth sports teams
- Financial aid offices
- Student veteran centers

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary.
- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.

The Department Scholarships Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary.

The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarships Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Scholarships Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 and for the promotion of the Program Goals listed at the top of Page 53. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.