



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries and Posts that sponsored a Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contest. And a BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful student contestants. They are an awesome group of young men and women who are ready to be leaders in the future. They did a great job of explaining "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy" and "How they are Inspired by America"

We wish them each of them well as they compete at the National Level.

Deadlines are approaching fast for the Young American Creative Patriotic Act (YACPAC) and the VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship. Continue to promote them and encourage those eligible for the Continuing Education Scholarship to apply.

### Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Requirements

- Students who are enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools and home study programs in the US and its territories OR dependents of the US Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. • The students must be US Citizen or US National Student.
- The student DOES NOT have to be related to an auxiliary member.
- Students must be in grades 9 - 12 to be eligible to compete in this contest.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- The completed application must be attached to the back of the artwork entry. • Attach a 250-word or less explanation of the entry.

**If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes, and other pertinent rules of the code.**

#### YACPAC Scholarship Contest Deadlines?

- March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary.
- April 15: VFW Auxiliary winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.
- May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

### YACPAC TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be on canvas or paper. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other media taught may be used.
- Do NOT frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
  - Other entries must be matted in white. Do NOT use color mats.
  - Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may be used.
- Art should be no smaller than “8 X 10” and no larger than “18 x 24” not including the mat.

### YACPAC THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART:

- ▣ Art can be Paper Mache’, Pottery, Clay, Metalwork, Fabric, etc.
- ▣ Pieces should be no smaller than 8” in any direction and no longer than 24” in any Direction. Art cannot weigh more than 5 lbs.
- ▣ Digital Art, photography and jewelry are **NOT** accepted.

**YACPAC Judging:** Will be on the originality of concept, presentation of patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, technique and Total aspect of work.

The First-place winners from each state will be competing for national Awards totaling up to \$31,500.00.

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SEEKS AUXILIARIES TO SPONSOR STUDENTS FOR PATRIOTIC ART CONTESTS

*Does your town or area have more Auxiliaries than high schools?*

*Are you struggling to get entries for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest?*

*Would your Auxiliary be interested in sponsoring student entries from unaffiliated Posts?*

If you answered YES to any of the above, keep reading for a unique opportunity to support talented students from around the globe!



As you may be aware, in recent years the VFW and VFW Auxiliary removed the word "local" from the requirements for scholarship entry, to be replaced with Post-level or Auxiliary-level. This means students do not have to enter through the Post or Auxiliary in the town in which they live, which includes high schoolers who live in Europe and Asia, namely the children of service members stationed abroad.

But what happens when students interested in our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and/or the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest cannot find an Auxiliary through which to enter? Or what if they have a local Auxiliary, but no Department to advance to after winning?

They need sponsors!

That is why VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is seeking your help. We need Auxiliaries interested in welcoming the work of these talented students for competition. Our intention would be to match students without Auxiliaries to Auxiliaries without students, and also to advance Auxiliary-level winners in unaffiliated areas to Departments in their closest Conferences – for example, connecting American students living in Europe with Eastern Conference Auxiliaries, or connecting American students living in Korea with Western Conference Auxiliaries. (Note: while U.S. citizenship is not required, non-citizens must be Permanent Residents or have applied for Permanent Resident Status and not been denied to become a U.S. citizen.)

Please be aware that any Auxiliary chosen to sponsor students in this manner would be financially responsible for costs, specifically the return mailing of the artwork. You must work with the USPS or another legitimate mail service to do so. The cost may not be insubstantial, especially when overseas shipping larger paintings or 3-dimensional art pieces, which could weigh up to five pounds. Please discuss this as an Auxiliary before offering to sponsor students from unaffiliated areas.

If interested in sponsoring, please email your Department Secretaries with the subject line **Sponsoring YACPAC Students**. If we receive a request from a student that we feel would be a good fit, we will reach out to the Department Secretary directly.

## **Continuing Education Scholarship**

This Scholarship is to assist Auxiliary members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at the vocation or technical school of their choice.

### **Continuing Education contest requirements:**

- ❑ Applicant must be 18 years of age.
- ❑ Must be a member of the Auxiliary in good standing for at least one year. Contestants may also be Auxiliary members' spouse, son, or daughter with financial need and currently 1yr. in standing their spouse, son, or daughter with financial need.
- ❑ Must answer all questions on the application for consideration.
- ❑ Write a brief essay no longer than 200 words describing your commitment to goals and how this scholarship will help you to attain these goals.
- ❑ Previous continuing Education winners are not permitted to participate again after winning.
- ❑ A total of four \$1,000.00 Scholarships will be awarded each year – One in each of the four VFW Auxiliary conferences (Big Ten, **BEAST FROM THE EAST**, Southern and Western conferences)

Applicants are sent **DIRECTLY** to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – Not Local/ State Auxiliaries

**ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BY FEBRUARY 15, 2024!**

National Headquarters will notify winners of the continuing Education scholarship by May 1, 2024.

Scholarship Reports should be sent to the Scholarship Chairman:

Melissa Tracey

8350 Baltimore Annapolis BLVD

Pasadena MD, 21122

Cell: 410-487-2514 Email: missy.dedo@yahoo.com

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique, and total impact of work.

### Contest Rules

- Entry must be three-dimensional.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction.
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- Entries may not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Entries may be paper, papier mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- Complete the contest application and attach it to the back of the entry.
- Complete a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) and attach it to the back of the entry.
- Teacher or supervisory adult signature required on contest application.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art, photography and jewelry are **NOT** accepted.

### Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school 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 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are **NOT** eligible.

### National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500

Second place - \$1,000

Third place - \$500

*VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, or misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.*

## **VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines**

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on the entry form.
- **August:** First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** Art will be returned to the address on the entry form.

**Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winner's choice.**

*Please note that the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is a separate scholarship from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.*

*Scholarships reports should be sent to the Scholarships Chairman:*

*Melissa Tracey  
8350 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
Cell: 410-487-2514  
Email: missy.dedo@yahoo.com*