



It 's Scholarships Time

It was so nice meeting all the Scholarships chairmen, presidents, and members at the school of instruction. We had such a wonderful turnout. I am super excited to be this year's scholarships chairman. It is August and schools are back in session, fall sports are starting up and youth organizations are back to having meetings and get-togethers. NOW is the time to start sharing our Scholarships information with them. Don't forget to tell family friends, neighbors, nieces, nephews, cousins, and grandchildren about the opportunities for scholarships we offer. The **Voice of Democracy**, an audio essay is available for students in grades 9-12, and the **Patriot's Pen** is a written essay for students in grades 6-8. Remember the deadline for submissions is October 31, 2023. All submissions should be turned into VFW POSTS no later than midnight on the 31st.

We should also be sharing information with our members about the **Continuing Education Scholarship** that is available to members and their immediate family. This is a wonderful opportunity for members who are looking to further their education but may be facing financial difficulty.

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Maryland

2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

2023 – 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM GOALS

- ❖ Student Participation
- ❖ Recipient Recognition
- ❖ Community Awareness
- ❖ Increase the Funding

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

* Continuing Education Scholarship

* Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

* 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

2023-2024 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest – Theme: What are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?

2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest – Theme: How are you inspired by America?

Spreading the News of our Scholarships!

How is your auxiliary getting the information out about our Scholarship Opportunities? Here are a few suggestions of groups that you might want to contact to see if they are interested:

- ❖ Schools and JROTC Units
- ❖ Faith-based youth groups
- ❖ Youth-focused organizations
- ❖ Home-school associations
- ❖ Parent-teacher associations
- ❖ Youth sports teams
- ❖ Social Media
- ❖ Financial aid offices
- ❖ Student Veterans Centers
- ❖ Your own Auxiliary or VFW Post





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Recognition Is very Important, it is important that scholarship and contest winners receive recognition at every level.

- ❖ Present 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
- ❖ Contact local media to feature winners in the news (see sample press releases online at vfwauxiliary.org/resources)
- ❖ Invite winners to participate in a conference
- ❖ Don't forget to recognize the parents and teachers!

Scholarship and Contest Resources and Deadlines

- ❖ VFW website: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- ❖ VFW Maryland website: vfwauxmd.org →Programs →Scholarships
- ❖ VFW Auxiliary website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
- ❖ Promotions from National Ambassador
- ❖ VFW Store: vfwstore.org or 1-833-VFW-VETS

Go to: www.vfwauxmd.org→Programs→Scholarships for your fillable report form, chairperson's contact information and monthly mailers.

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