

Scholarships



Be a Veteran's P.A.L.

Serving Veterans One Paw at a time



2023-2024

Department of Maryland
Scholarship Chairman

Melissa Tracey

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CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINES

Patriots Pen Essay- Due to Local VFW Post Oct. 31

Entries are open to students grades 6-8 enrolled in public, private, parochial schools, and home study Programs within the United States and its territories. As well as dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

Voice of Democracy - Due to Local VFW Post Oct. 31

Entries are open to students grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private, parochial schools, and home study Programs within the United States and its territories. As well as dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.



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Continuing Education- Due to AUX. NTL. HQS Feb. 15

Entries are open to any current Auxiliary member 1 yr. in standing, their spouse, son, or daughter with financial need. Entrants must be at least 18yrs old, complete the application, and submit an essay of 300 words or less.

Young American creative Patriotic Art - Due to Local VFW Post Mar. 31

Entries are open to students grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private, parochial schools, and home study Programs within the United States and its territories. As well as dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Students must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National. Student does not have to be related to an Auxiliary member to participate. Students must attend school in same state of sponsoring Auxiliary



Patriots Pen Essay



2023-2024 Theme: How are you Inspired by America?

Contest Requirements:

- Write a 300 to 400- word Essay.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race or national origin)
- The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly.
- The Essay will be judged on how well the student understands, develops, and presents the theme.

- 1) **Knowledge** – 30 points. Demonstrate how extensively research on the theme was performed.
- 2) **Development** – 35 points. Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to personal experiences.
- 3) **Clarity of Ideas**- 35 pts. The essay should be written in an easily read format leaving the reader with a clear understanding of the theme.

The national First Place Winner wins \$5,000.00 and an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. The First- Place winner from each state competes for awards totaling \$55,000.00 – with each first-place STATE winner receiving a minimum of \$500.00 at the National level.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY



2023-2024 Theme: What are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy?

Contest Requirements:

- Record a 5- minute audio essay.
 - Entry must be the sole author of the essay. The recording must be in your own voice in English.
 - No Music, singing, poetry, or sound effects allowed.
 - In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin)
 - The essay will be judged on the student's creativity, content, and delivery of the essay.
- 1) **Originality**- 30 pts. Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.
 - 2) **Content** – 35 pts. Clearly express, and fully develop your ideas in an organized manner.
 - 3) **Delivery** – 35 pts. Speake in a clear and credible manner.

The National First Place Winner receives a \$35,000.00

Scholarship paid directly to the recipient's choice of American University, College, Vocational, or technical school. A complete list of other National scholarships ranges from \$1,000.00 to \$21,000.00 and the first-place STATE winner from EACH state wins a minimum of \$1,000.00 and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C.

Continuing Education



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.

Contest Requirements:

- Applicant must be 18 years of age.
- Must be a member of the Auxiliary currently for 1 yr. be in good 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 300 words describing your commitment to goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals.

Four \$1,250.00 Scholarships will be awarded each year-one in each of the four VFW auxiliary conferences (Big Ten, Eastern, Western & Southern). Previous National Continuing Education scholarship winners are not eligible.

Applications are sent DIRECTLY to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – NOT local/ state Auxiliaries.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART



Contest Requirements:

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Complete application and attach to the back of the entry. Also 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.

Two- Dimensional Art:

- Must be on Canvas or paper, watercolor, pencil, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other medias taught be used.
- Do **NOT** frame two- dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted white. Do **NOT** use color matts. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may be used.
- Art should be no smaller than “8x10” and no larger than “18x24” not including the mat.

Three- Dimensional Art:

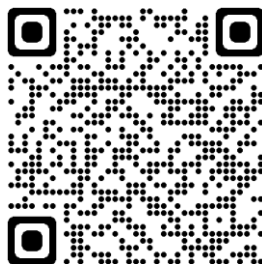
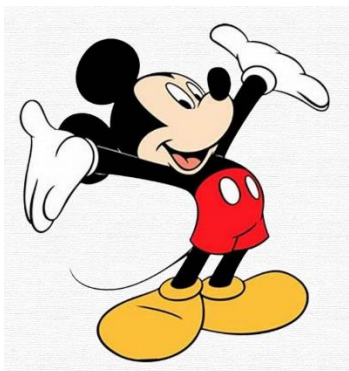
- Art can be paper Mache’, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.
- Pieces should be no smaller than 8” in any direction and no longer than 24” in any direction. And art cannot weigh more than 5lbs.

Judging: will be on originality of concept, presentation of Patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, technique & total aspect of work.

The National First Place winner will receive \$15,000.00. First place winners from each state will be competing for National awards totaling \$31,500.00.

Spread the Word

- 1) Go to the VFW Auxiliary website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
(The QR code at the bottom of the page will take you to the Department website)
 - a) Click on the dropdown box. select each contest to obtain information needed to discuss details.
 - b) Read about the scholarship programs in the National Program Book found on the website.
- 2) Print applications for each of the contests to be ready for distribution to contestants.
- 3) Identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss scholarship opportunities. Suggested groups can be found here:
 - Schools and JROTC units
 - Church and/ or youth groups
 - Youth focused organizations
 - Home school associations
 - Youth sports teams
 - Financial aid officers
 - Student veteran centers
- 4) Use social media – such as Facebook, Twitter, local VFW websites, Newspapers, Radio, etc.





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Scholarships

2023 - 2024 Report Form

Melissa Tracey, Department Chairperson

8350 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd

Pasadena, MD 21122

410-487-2514 missy.dedo@yahoo.com



Auxiliary _____ District _____ Month _____ Chairman _____

Reporting Period: From _____ To _____

This month - Hours _____ Projects Cost \$ _____ Mileage _____ Volunteers # _____

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Did you promote the Continuing Education Scholarship Contest? Yes _____ No _____

Did you made a monetary donation to the Continuing Educations Scholarship fund? Yes _____ No _____

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

Did you promote the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest? Yes _____ No _____

_____ # of student entrees Did you submit an entry to the Department for judging? Yes _____ No _____

Did you make a monetary donation to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Fund? Yes _____ No _____

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

Did you promote the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest? Yes _____ No _____

_____ # of student entrees Did you submit an entry to the Department for judging? Yes _____ No _____

Did you make a monetary donation to the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Fund? Yes _____ No _____

VFW SCHOLARSHIPS

Did you assist your Post in conducting the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest? Yes _____ No _____

Did you assist your Post in conducting the Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest? Yes _____ No _____

Did your Auxiliary host/co-host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in any of these contest?

Yes _____ No _____

Total dollar amount and/or value of awards you presented. \$ _____

Other Scholarships projects or activities (use additional sheet if necessary):