

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

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



DECEMBER 2024



For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests...contact your winners, recognize your winners, promote your winners in your local papers and on Facebook, and donate to Department of Maryland or National to increase the Scholarships awards. Next, plan to attend the ***VFW DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND AWARDS CEREMONY on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at VFW POST 2678, 6521 North Point Road, Edgemere, MD 21219. The ceremony will start at 1300. The uniform is VFW Blue and Grey. Be sure to RSVP by January 11, 2025 to 410-752-6474. See you there!***

District VFW Commanders are forwarding their District winners to Department. District VFW Commanders and District VFW Auxiliary Presidents will escort their students to the stage during this exciting and memorable ceremony. Which District winner is going to win the Department Contest and move on to National?



There is still time to **donate to the Scholarships Program:**

In order to "Increase the Fund" which is one of National's four goals this year, your auxiliary can send donations to PDP Jackie Kimball, our Department of Maryland Treasurer – earmarked "for Scholarship." Treasurer Kimball can accept donations to either DEPARTMENT of MARYLAND or to NATIONAL.

So far, the following posts have donated to the Department of Maryland Scholarship Program: In **July** = **10078**, in **August** = **304** and **341**, in **September** = **350, 6027, 8806, and 10028**. In **October** = **6775, 7757, and 8509. Thank You!! BE SURE TO EARMARK YOUR DONATION FOR **DEPARTMENT** OR FOR **NATIONAL**.**



Update on this year's **awards**:

1. As I receive a report from an auxiliary, I set aside a special pin for that Chairman. These special pins will be distributed at Christmas Conference and at Convention. One per auxiliary. As of October 16th, I've received reports from: 27 out of 56 auxiliaries -

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|-------------|---|
| District 1 | 2632 – 20% |
| District 2 | 7757, 341 – 29% |
| District 3 | |
| District 4 | 5246 – 20% |
| District 5 | 10146, 10028, 8672 – 50% |
| District 6 | 304, 2462 – 50% |
| District 7 | 6658, 7472, 8806, 521, 6918, 467, 3285 – 87.5% |
| District 10 | 8185, 7687, 6027, 8175 – 100% |
| District 11 | 10078, 8509 – 50% |
| District 14 | 6506, 2678 – 50% |
| District 16 | 194, 8276, 10159 - 75% |

27 pins will be awarded at the Christmas Conference on 12-15-24.

I expect to award 56 pins to all 56 auxiliaries by Convention!

2. Plus, at convention next year, a \$50 cash award will be given to:
 - the auxiliary with the most Voice of Democracy entries – **report!**
 - the auxiliary with the most Patriot's Pen entries – **report!**
 - the auxiliary with the most Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest entries
 - the auxiliary with the most 3-D Art entries

NB: you must report your post's total number of entries received for each contest and send your report to me by April 15, 2025 in order to be eligible for these cash awards.

NEXT CONTESTS, NEXT DEADLINES –

Start accepting application forms from your auxiliary members/families for the National Continuing Education Scholarship now.

...Applications for the VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship will be accepted until **February 15, 2025.**

Drop off entry forms for the YACPAC and 3D Art Contest at your local schools and youth groups after the first of the year.

...Applications for the VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest will be accepted until **March 31, 2025.**

...Applications for the VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest will be accepted until **March 31, 2025.**

Application form and Entry forms were sent last month. Please see attached report form and return to me with your VOD and Patriot's Pen numbers.

**As National Scholarship Ambassador Dina Hudson says,
“Won't you get ON BOARD the SCHOLAR-SHIP???”**





Scholarships

2024 - 2025 Report Form

JoAnne Bierly , Department Chairman

765 Jacob Tome Memorial Highway

Port Deposit, MD 21904

443-907-3929 jobierly69@aol.com



Auxiliary _____ District _____ Month _____ Chairman _____

Reporting Period: From _____ To _____

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

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. \$ _____

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

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

Did you make 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 _____

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



Department of Maryland
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

War Memorial Building Suite J
101 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: 410-752-6474 Fax: 410-783-2939



National 2024-2024 Youth Contests

as of 20240625

Voice of Democracy- 1st place at national - \$35,000 (Post/District/Department prizes vary)

Essay and Recording Theme: Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision? (3-5 minutes); (electronic files) Grades 9-12; Details: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education> and www.vfwmd.org
S: To Post- 31 October; Post winner to District: NLT 15 Nov; District winner to Dept by 15 Dec.

Patriot's Pen- 1st place at national - \$5,000 (Post/District/Department prizes vary)

Essay Theme: My Voice in America's Democracy?; 300-400 words; Grades 6-8; Details: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education> and www.vfwmd.org S: To Post- 31 October; Post winner packet to District: NLT 15 Nov; District winner packet to Dept by 15 Dec.

Scout of the Year- 1st place at national - \$5,000 (Post/District/Department prizes vary)

Must be: Active, registered member of a Troop, Crew, or Ship; Ages-15-18 (in high school at selection) Boy Scout w/Eagle rank; Girl Scout w/Gold Award; Venture w/Summit; Sea Scout w/Quartermaster
Details: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education> and www.vfwmd.org
S: To Post- 1 Mar; Winner packet (and names of other participants) to District 15 Mar; and to Depart 1 Apr.

State 2024-2025 Youth Contests/Awards and Recognition

Buddy Poppy- Q &A contest and recitation of *In Flanders Fields* and one of the many *Responses*

Loyalty Day- Q &A contest and recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*

Details: www.vfwmd.org S: Post Contests in early Nov; District contests in late Nov; Department level contest on early Dec. Awards presented at the Department annual Awards Ceremony Jan 2024 with PP, VOD, and Teacher awards.

Other Recognition- Junior and Senior ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet, Young American, Leaders, Volunteers, Community Service, Patriotic Service, Patriotic Citizen (nominating orgs request from Posts).

National 2024-2025 Adult Contests

Civil Servants: Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, and EMT/Paramedic of the Year

Nominee Packets to Post- 31 Oct; Post Winners to District 15 Nov; All Post winners to Department 1 Jan
Packets require: Nominee Information Sheet; one-page Resume/background; one-page listing of accomplishments; photo (head-shoulders) of nominee; Packets are available from www.vfwmd.org Members Only section (need VFW membership ID number to access the site)

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year- \$1,000 at national

Packets require: nomination form, nomination essay (max 350 words), one-page resume, photo (head-shoulders), up to five additional pages of documentation; additional detail at <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year>; S: Nominee Packets to Post- 31 October; Post winner to District NLT 15 Nov; District Winner to Dept by 1 Jan.

POCs

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Chair, Youth & Scout | Chris Sandoval | 443-223-8436 | christine.c.sandoval@gmail.com |
| Chair, VoD | Cort Meinelschmidt | 301-992-8777 | awards@vfwmd.org |
| Chair, PP | Cort Meinelschmidt | | |
| Chair, FF/LEO/EMT | Frank Rauschenberg | 240-367-6110 | fm32@erols.com |
| Chair, Teacher | | | awards@vfwmd.org |

Teacher of the Year

awards@vfwmd.org

Post October 31st 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
District November 15 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
Department January 1st 2025, Prior to Completed Judging

Patriot's Pen (6th, 7th, and 8th Grade)

Cort Meinelschmidt 301-992-8777 awards@vfwmd.org

Post October 31st 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
District November 15 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
Department December 15 2024, Prior to Completed Judging

Voice Of Democracy (9th – 12th Grade)

Cort Meinelschmidt 301-992-8777 awards@vfwmd.org

Post October 31st 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
District November 15 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
Department December 15 2024, Prior to Completed Judging

Civil Servant of the year

(Firefighter, Paramedic & Law Enforcement)

Frank Rauschenberg (240)-367-6110 fm32@erols.com

Post October 31st 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
District November 15 2024, Prior to Completed Judging
Department January 1 2025, Prior to Completed Judging

Scout of the Year

Chris Sandoval 443-223-8436 christine.c.sandoval@gmail.com

Post March 1st 2025, Nominations

Department April 1st 2025, Nominations

All Forms can be downloaded off
www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

click on Youth Scholarships
download the forms for VOD & Patriots Pen

click on Teacher of the year (can enter as many as you want)
download the forms

click on Scout of the year
download the forms

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/community-service-youth-scholarships-and-activities>

Click on Public Servant and safety
Select
Public servant award post entry form

www.vfwmd.org

They are fillable and printable
Under resources tab
Youth programs

Members only
Member id (vfw card#)
Password (last name)
Reports and forms