



Youth Activities

MARCH 2025



Announcements

The Illustrating America Contest is this month!!!

The contest is open to students in grades K-8.

Grade groups are Kindergarten to 2nd, 3rd to 5th, and 6th to 8th.

Entries will be judged on the use of the patriotic theme and technique. Also be sure to remember that this year National needs the student's name, age and grade level must be printed on the back of art submission.

DEADLINES:

March 31st Local Auxiliaries must receive the entries by this date.

April 15th Entries must be given to Youth Activities Chairperson Crystal Hallen

May 5th to National Headquarters Please see the student brochure and entry form in MALTA Member Resources, and it can also be found on the VFW AUX MD (<https://vfwauxmd.org/>).

A special note from Crystal:

Mailing the entries is preferred. If you mail them please be sure to get the tracking information for the package. Arrangements might be able to be made, please don't wait to the last minute to make arrangements. I am a full time teacher and sometimes I do have preplanned activities on the weekends. Also please refrain from giving out my personal information to any contestants.

Youth Activities Program Award

The form must be turned in to the Youth Activities Chairman by March 31st, 2025 for judging. The form can be found on MALTA under Member Resources, Youth Activities.

National is looking for the most outstanding activity and/or event of YOUTH READING TO VETERANS AND/OR VETERANS READING TO YOUTH.



Youth Activities

MARCH 2025



Announcements continued

REPORTING

As of February 17th, 2025 we are 63% reported as a Department. I know that we can dig deep and get those last few Auxiliaries to submit reports.

- Also recently I have received more than a handful of blank reports or reports that say “No activities were conducted during this time period”. It has been shared several times over the last few years that a “No report” is not an acceptable report.
- I’ve also heard from Auxiliaries lately that have also said “We can’t get into the schools”. You don’t have to go into the schools to reach the youth.

Below is a list of “non-school” activities that can be submitted for reports

1. Create a post library. Use the list from MALTA, Member Resources, Youth Activities, Suggested Book list or books that have been suggested in previous promotions to create a library where youth who attend your family style meals can access the books. You can get these books from Amazon, thrift stores, yard sales and other used book stores.
2. Check out your local public library and see if they have patriotic books in stock. If they do not see if your Auxiliary can donate some books off the list to the local library. Or contact the local school librarian to see if they would like to receive a donation of patriotic books.
3. There are many youth groups within our schools and community that we can support, sponsor, and work with.

These may include but are not limited to:

- The Scouts • Church Youth Groups • Boys & Girls Club • School Sponsored Groups • JROTC • After school programs

Some suggested ideas to get them involved:

- Placing Flags on graves • Helping serve meals at an event.
- Have them assist with the different ceremonies that your Post may host.



Youth Activities MARCH 2025



Dates to remember

Women's History Month- Entire Month of March

Read Across America Day- March 2nd

Navy Reserve Birthday- March 3rd

Hug a GI Day- March 4th

Daylight Saving Time Begins- March 9th

K-9 Veterans Day- March 13th

Rosie The Riveter Day- March 21st

Medal of Honor Day- March 25th

National Vietnam War Veterans Day- March 29th



Illustrating America Contest Entries due to local
Auxiliaries- March 31st

Youth Activities Chairman Information

Crystal Hallen

613 Piping Rock Drive,

Silver Spring, MD 20905

csalexander013@gmail.com

443-309-6625





VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America Art Contest

2024-2025

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

Contest Eligibility

- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate
- Students in grades K-8 by 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 resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest Awards

Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

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

VFW Auxiliary judging dates and deadlines:

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- **April 15:** First place winner from each grade division from participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or **optional** VFW Auxiliary District advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state) for judging.
- **May 5:** First place winner from grade division from each Department (state) due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.
- **July/August:** All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winning entries in each grade division will be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America Art Contest

Contest Entry Form

2024-2025

Please print or type

Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____

Media used: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules.

Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contact email: _____

To avoid entrant disqualification

This section is to be filled out completely and correctly by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts **Department** level first-place winning entries.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & Number: _____ **Dept. of:** _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____ Date: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: Optional VFW Auxiliary District judging.

VFW Auxiliary District judging verification signature: _____ Date: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each grade division from participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or **optional** VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the Department for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman judging verification signature: _____ Date: _____

VFW Auxiliary Department Pres., Sec. and/or Treas. verification signature: _____ Date: _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: Final Level Deadline First place winner from each grade division from VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

Attention: Program Awards Administrator.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winning entries in each grade division will be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.

