



DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY

SCHOLARSHIPS

NOVEMBER 2025

Scholarship Goals: Student Participation ● Recipient Recognition ●
Community Awareness ● Increasing the Funds

Student Participation

Mark your calendars! The deadline for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarships is October 31st.

- All submissions must include a completed entry form.
- Don't forget, the parent or guardian needs to fill out the form as well!
- Every entry starts at the VFW Post level.

If you have additional entries, please collaborate with your local VFW Chairman to share them with other Posts that may not have received any submissions. Let's unite in providing students with the chance to compete for these scholarships!

Contestants will be evaluated solely on their essays and are not required to present their essays orally.

One winner for every 15 entries from each **Post** advances to **District** and one District winner advances to the **state** (Department) competition.

Entries sent directly to National will be returned.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



The audio recording should be 3-5 minutes (+audio or -5 second max) essay on a flash drive. It should not include music, singing, poetry or sound effects.

To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays must be anonymous. There should be no name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of the essay.

Additionally, avoid references to race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal their identity.

General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to students background or experience should be avoided.





VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

VOD Judging Criteria



Originality (35 points)

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content (30 points)

Clearly expresses their ideas in an organized manner. Student fully develops their theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery (35 points)

Speaks in a clear and credible manner.

PATRIOT'S PEN



Student provides a written essay. All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length.

Do not include students name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of the essay. Avoid references to their race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. Personal identifiers tied to individuals background/experience should be avoided.

PATRIOT'S PEN



Patriot's Pen Judging Criteria

Knowledge (30 points)

Must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in work. Demonstrate student researched the issue extensively.

Theme (35 points)

All relevant facts answered about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Student relates the theme to their own experiences.

Clarity of ideas (35 points)

Essay in an easy-to-understand format. Reader has clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

Just a reminder...



If you have extra entries, share them with other Posts!

DUE DATES: 1st Place to District

Nov 15, 2025

1st Place to State

Nov 16, 2025



Recipient Recognition

Collaborate with your VFW Scholarship Chairman to discover various ways to celebrate achievements—whether through financial support, certificate presentations, or an awards dinner at your Post or District. This is a fantastic opportunity to recognize not only the winners but also all participants and the teachers who supported the students!

Additionally, if you don't already have be sure to check out the items available for purchase at the VFW Store. I've highlighted a few selections, and you can find the VFW Certificates on the site as well.

Increasing the Funds

A heartfelt shout-out to all Auxiliaries who have contributed towards enhancing the National President's Special Project, the Continuing Education Scholarship, and the Patriotic Fund Aug-Sep 2025.

- District 2: 341, 350
- District 3: 6775
- District 4: 7464
- District 5: 8126, 10028
- District 7: 8806
- District 10: 6027, 7687, 8175
- District 11: 3065
- District 14: 2678, 6506



For donations by an auxiliary check, annotate which Scholarship in the notes.

Auxiliary donations of \$100 or more towards the Continuing Education Scholarship will enter your Auxiliary into a raffle for a chance to win \$50.00!

Donations can be made by your Auxiliary Treasurer and Auxiliary member in MALTA under Gifts, selecting "National Presidents Special Project" from the dropdown menu.

I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Nancy Shenk

Nancy Shenk
Department of MD Scholarship Chairman



SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARD PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS!

VFW
VFWSTORE.ORG

ENTRY DEADLINES ARE OCT. 31 - ARE YOU READY?

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
SHOP NOW

PATRIOT'S PEN
SHOP NOW