



DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY

SCHOLARSHIPS



DECEMBER 2025

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

Student Participation

The deadline for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarships was October 31st. If you had additional entries, I hope you shared them with other Posts that may not have received any submissions. *Please include number of entries you received in bottom part of your report form.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

The VFW Department Scholarships Award Banquet is to be held at the Jerry Skrivanek VFW Post 8185, located at 520 Susquehanna River Road, Port Deposit, MD 21904 on January 18, 2026 at 1:00PM

Recipient Recognition

Celebrate the achievements at your Post/District. Consider ways to honor achievements: financial support, certificate presentations or awards dinner. This is a wonderful chance to acknowledge not just the winners but also all participants/teachers. I included a sample letter if you wanted to provide to participants.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (2-D/3-Dimensional)

This scholarship contest recognizes up and coming arts and encourages patriotism in youth. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private, parochial high school or home study or dependents of US military/civilian personnel overseas schools. Students DO NOT have to be related to a VFW or Auxiliary to participate, but student must attend school in same state as sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. First place winners from each state competes for national awards totaling **\$31,500.00!!**

Student submission deadline to VFW Auxiliary is March 31, 2026. All entries should come with a entry form and picture in case items are accidentally damaged in transit.

I included a application with details for you.





Community Awareness

To successfully attract participants to art scholarship contests, raising awareness is essential. Here are several effective strategies to promote these contests:

Strategy	Description
Social Media Campaigns	Leverage platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to share contest details and encourage participation.
Local Media Involvement	Partner with local newspapers, radio stations, and community boards to advertise contests. Include them in community newsletters and events.
Community Events	Host events where participants can learn about and apply for art scholarships. This can include workshops, panels, and exhibitions that highlight local talent and creativity.
Collaboration with Schools	Work together with schools to distribute contest flyers and scholarship information. Schools can also offer resources and support for students interested in participating.

Increasing the Funds

THANK YOU to all Auxiliaries and District who have contributed towards enhancing the National President's Special Project, the Continuing Education Scholarship, and the Patriotic Fund Oct 2025.

- District 1: 2632, 5471, 9619
- District 2: 341, 5633
- District 4: 7464, 5118
- District 5: 5337, 8126
- District 6: 160
- District 7: 467, 6658, 8806
- District 10: 6027, 7687, 8185
- District 11: 3065, 8509
- District 16: 2678, 6506, 10067



At the Christmas Conference. Auxiliaries who made a donation of \$100 or more to the National Presidents Special Project were entered into a raffle to win \$50.00 Let's see who the lucky Auxiliary winner will be!

REMINDER: Donations can still be made by your Auxiliary Treasurer and Auxiliary member in MALTA under *Make a Gift*, select "*National Presidents Special Project*" from the dropdown menu.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Nancy Shenk

Nancy Shenk
Department of MD Scholarship Chairman



YOUNG
AMERICAN

creative

PATRIOTIC ART
CONTEST

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please print or complete fillable form at www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.

NAME AGE GRADE
ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP
EMAIL PHONE
SCHOOL DATE ART COMPLETED

Teacher's or supervisory adult's signature verifying that the entry was done by you:

TEACHER OR PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME SIGNATURE ☒

I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top national awards.

STUDENT SIGNATURE ☒

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

SOURCE MEDIA USED IN ENTRY
(e.g., colored pencil, oil paint, pottery)

PLEASE ATTACH A TYPED EXPLANATION OF THE ENTRY (250 Words or Fewer)

ARTWORK NOT SPONSORED BY A LOCAL VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT BEING JUDGED.

SPONSORED BY VFW AUXILIARY # CITY STATE

DATE JUDGED VFW AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATURE (Required) ☒

DISTRICT JUDGING (Optional)

DATE JUDGED DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATURE (Required) ☒

DEPARTMENT JUDGING

DATE JUDGED DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN OF JUDGES' SIGNATURE (Required) ☒

Department first-place art entry must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or it will be disqualified.
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools
- Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible.

ART contest RULES

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Complete contest application and attach to back of entry.
- » Also attach a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less).
- Teacher or supervisory adult signature required on contest application.
- 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.
- Digital art, photography and jewelry are NOT ACCEPTED.

scholarship

AMOUNTS

The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$31,500.

FIRST PLACE	\$15,000
SECOND PLACE	\$7,500
THIRD PLACE	\$3,500
FOURTH-FIFTH PLACE	\$1,500
SIXTH-TENTH PLACE	\$500

TWO-DIMENSIONAL SUBMISSIONS

- Art must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvases entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white. Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used.
- Art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL SUBMISSIONS

- Art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, metal work, fabric, wood, etc.
- Art should be no larger than 18" in any direction.
- Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.

STUDENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Auxiliary by March 31. Entries submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be returned.

JUDGING AND AUXILIARY DEADLINES

Entry will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed; content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; design technique; total impact of work.

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals and persons knowledgeable about art. Comments of local and state judges will be attached to and forwarded with the art.

One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to District judging (if applicable).

APRIL 10: Local VFW Auxiliary and District judging complete.

One winner from each District (if applicable) advances to Department (state) judging.

APRIL 15: Local VFW Auxiliary and District (if applicable) winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.

One winner from each Department (state) advances to National judging.

MAY 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

JULY: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners judged at National Convention.

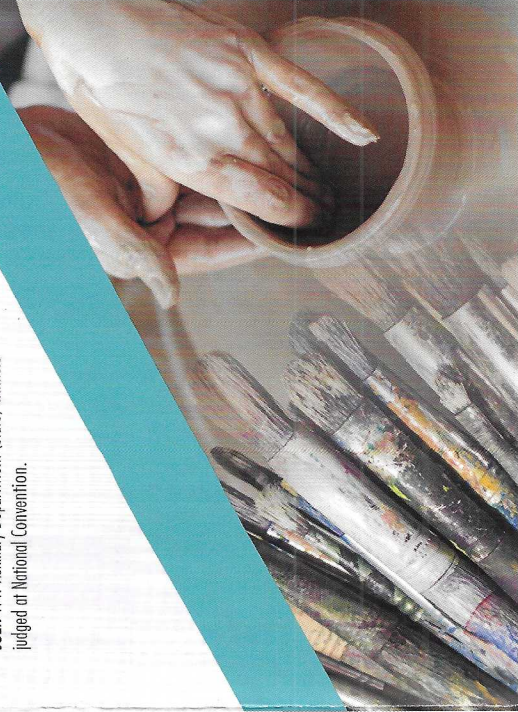
YOUNG
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PATRIOTIC ART
CONTEST



*A scholarship contest that recognizes
up-and-coming artists and encourages
patriotism in youth.*
www.vfwauxiliary.org



PARTICIPANTS SAMPLE LETTER

[Post/Auxiliary Letterhead or Logo]

[Date]

[Student Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

Dear [Student Name],

Thank you for participating in the **[Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen]** competition sponsored by **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post [###] and Auxiliary**. We want to congratulate you on submitting a thoughtful and well-crafted entry. Your work showed genuine effort and an appreciation for this year's theme: "How are you Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?".

Although your entry did not advance to the next level of competition this year, please know that your contribution was valued. Our judges were impressed by the creativity and insight displayed by all participants, including you. Your involvement helps strengthen the spirit of patriotism in our community, and we sincerely appreciate your dedication.

We encourage you to participate again **next year**, provided you remain eligible. Each year offers a new theme and another opportunity to build your skills and share your voice.

We hope to see your continued involvement in future VFW youth programs. Thank you again for representing your school and community with pride.

If you have any questions or would like more information about next year's competition, please contact: [Name, Title and Email Address].

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title: e.g., VFW Auxiliary President, VFW Program Chair, etc.]

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post [###]