



DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY

SCHOLARSHIPS



FEBRUARY 2026

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

Student Participation

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. *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.*

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- March 31, 2026 Student submission to VFW Auxiliary.
- April 15, 2026 VFW Auxiliary submits to Department Scholarship Chairman.

Entries should include completed entry form *and* picture in case damaged in transit. See the page in this mailer that includes common mistakes and helpful tips for submissions!

Applications can be found at the QR code shown.



Recipient Recognition

Please share how you celebrated the VOD and Patriot's Pen achievements at your Post/District. This is a wonderful chance to acknowledge not just the winners but also all participant's and teachers. Thank you to the Districts who invited me to your Scholarship Awards recognition

The VFW Department Scholarships Award Ceremony was held January 18, 2026, VFW Post 8185.

Voice of Democracy Winners

District 7, Post 521 **FIRST PLACE!**

Max Yurko

District 10, Post 8185 Kylie Ameen (2)

District 5, Post 8672 Caitylyn

Landerkin (3)

Patriot's Pen Winners

District 11, Post 219 **FIRST PLACE!**

Gianna Campanella

District 4, Post 7404 Mason Adkins (2)

District 16, Post 194 Liam Trice (3)

Congratulations to all the winners

and contestants, and thanks to

Post/Auxiliary 8185 for the delicious

food and hosting such a great event!



Increasing the Funds

Auxiliaries and District members who contributed to enhancing the National President's Special Project, the Continuing Education Scholarship, and the Patriotic Fund in November 2025.

Thank you!

- District 2: 7757
- District 6: 304, 327
- District 16: 10159

Congrats to the Auxiliary raffle winner, at the Christmas Conference, who took home the first \$50 prize!

Some Auxiliaries haven't yet contributed to the National President's Special Project or the Patriotic Fund. This is a great opportunity for your Auxiliary to join in and maybe even win the raffle at the next Council meeting, where all Auxiliaries that donated \$100 or more to the National President's Special Project will be entered. **Will your Auxiliary be the next lucky winner to win \$50.00?**



Auxiliaries have found creative ways to raise money, including craft shows, pasta dinners, basket raffles, Giving Tuesday in December, and Quarter Auction. Thanks for the imaginative ideas!

Community Awareness

I included the Scholarships National Program Entry Form for 2025-2026. Auxiliaries must complete the form and have to me by March 31, 2026.

DO NOT SIGN THE FORM. Describe the creative/unique activity and or event that educated the community about the scholarship opportunities with the VFW and Auxiliary. Please include any attachments you have to support your entry.

Auxiliary Reporting

Reports have been slow or nonexistent, with no updates from Auxiliaries. Just a reminder, please ensure the top portion of the form is completed. Thanks to those who have submitted reports!

As a reminder, if you have any pictures, please send them to me!



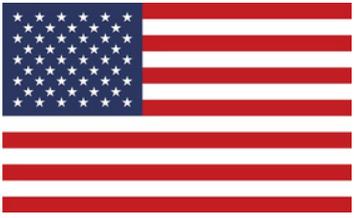
Nancy Shenk

Department of MD Scholarship Chairman

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

COMMON MISTAKES & HELPFUL HINTS

The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest provide an incredible scholarship opportunity for young artists while promoting patriotism throughout schools and home school associations. Follow the advice below to ensure that every student who enters the contest has the best possible chance of realizing his or her dreams.



USING THE U.S. FLAG

As a powerful symbol of our country, the U.S. Flag is often used in art entries. It can also be a source of problems for judges and Auxiliary Chairmen. When notifying schools, homeschool associations and students about the contest, give them a copy of the Federal Flag Code and encourage participants to closely examine the U.S. Flag before using it in their art.

COMMON MISTAKES:

- Not enough stars or stripes.
- Stripes in the wrong order or place.
- The Flag appearing to have someone standing on it, or something written or lying on it.

HINT: It is always best to portray the Flag as waving freely.

APPLICATION (One application for each contest)

When a student submits an art entry and contest application, check for the following:

- Print or legible writing. If you can't decipher the writing, chances are we can't either.
- Address with city, state and ZIP code (and country if foreign-based).
- Phone number with area code.
- Email address. This is used for all notifications.
- Signature of both student and parent or guardian.
- Source- this must be complete even if it states "original idea."
- Media used.
- Title of art entry.
- An artist statement, essay and detailed description of the art entry and how it was made.
- Signatures of participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman and Department Scholarships Chairman.

If entry is 3-Dimensional, include multiple photos of art entry in package.

Art entries not sponsored by a VFW Auxiliary will not be judged and will be returned to the student.



PACKING THE ART

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is not responsible for art lost or damaged during shipment. Please take in consideration that the art entry may be very fragile and will be shipped over many miles and encounter weather conditions.

- Use the correct size packaging.
- Use paper, bubble wrap, air pillows, cushioning and/or foam shippers.
- Label the package clearly to insure deadline arrival.
- Include a photo if art is 3-D.

