



DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY

SCHOLARSHIPS

MARCH 2026

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

Student Participation

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (2-D/3-D) **Grades 9-12**

This scholarship contest recognizes up and coming arts and encourages patriotism in youth.

- One entry per Auxiliary for each artwork.
- Coordinate judges in advance, Provided Judges Score Sheet in this mailer.
- Verify eligibility and criteria are met for each entry with entry form.

ENTRY FORM:

- Entry form complete, legible and signatures by student and parent.
- Auxiliary Section completed with point of contact information.

PACKAGING:

- Package carefully in case of damage in transit *unless arrangements to deliver to me prior to deadline.*
- MUST include inside the package two photographs of the art.
- Check Common Mistakes & Helpful Tips included in this mailer.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- March 31** Student submission to Auxiliary for judging.
- April 15** VFW Auxiliary sends artwork to Department Scholarship Chairman

Mail to: Nancy Shenk
2972 Turkey Point Road
North East, MD 21901

NOTE: Any artwork being sent to the Department, except for artwork going forward to National, will be available for the Auxiliary to pickup at the Department Convention.

If you will not be at the Convention, please make arrangements prior to the Convention, to have someone pickup the artwork for you.



Recipient Recognition

Thank you to the Districts and Auxiliaries who shared photo's celebrating the VOD and Patriot's Pen achievements

There's still time to forward those photo's to me!

I have included blank certificates for the Patriotic Art contests to recognize students with. I encourage Auxiliaries to send me photo's of recognizing students!

Increasing the Funds

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 March Auxiliary 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?**



Community Awareness

Describe the creative/unique activity and or event that your Auxiliary did educating the community about the scholarship and Patriotic Art contest opportunities with the VFW and Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Reporting

Reports have been slow or nonexistent, with no updates from Auxiliaries. Thanks to those who have submitted reports! We are almost at the end of our program year and want to show how hard Maryland has been working!

Last month I provided the Scholarship National Award Form 2025-2026 please make sure you provide (unsigned) to me before March 15, 2026.



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.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries 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 and total impact of work.

[VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships](#)

First place-\$15,000

Second place-\$7,500

Third place-\$3,500

Fourth place and Fifth place - \$1,500

Sixth place and Seventh place - \$1,000

Eighth place through Nineteenth place - \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 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 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

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, watercolor, oil, chalk, charcoal, ink, marker, pencil, mixed or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible artist statement (250 words or less).
- Student name on back of art entry.

[VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.](#)



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 School Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
 Media Used: _____ Source: _____

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's 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.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National E-magazine, 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: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

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

Authorized VFW Auxiliary 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) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District 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 participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department 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: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided August/September.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries 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 and total impact of work.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500

Second place - \$1,500

Third place - \$1,000

Fourth place \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 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 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be three dimensional.
- Entry may **not** be larger than 18" in any direction.
- Entry may **not** weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Stone, clay, metal, wood, fabric, papier mâché, pottery, mixed and other media may be used.
- Digital art, photography, weapons, art generated by a 3-D printer and jewelry are **not** accepted.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible explanation of the steps taken to create the 3-Dimensional art entry and artist statement (250 words or less).
- Submit at least 2 photos of completed art entry.

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



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
Media used: _____
Source: _____

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's 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.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National E-magazine, 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: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

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

Authorized VFW Auxiliary 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): First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District 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 participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department 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: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest



Certificate of Recognition

Presented to

In special recognition for your creative contribution to our
National Heritage through the expression of Art.

2026

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest



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