



Youth Activities



VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, and veterans.

Shannon Stanley, National Ambassador



Missy Tracey

8350 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-487-2514

depto



Youth Activities 2025-2026

Chairman: Melissa Tracey

Contact Information:

deptofmdyouthchair2526@gmail.com

410-487-2514

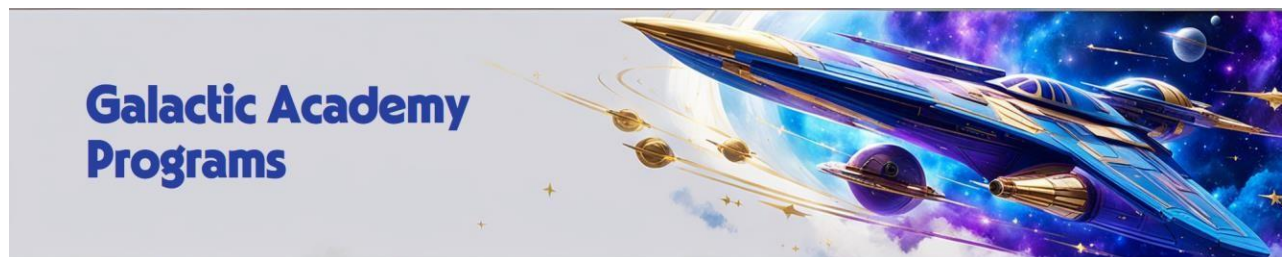


Youth Reading to our Veterans & Veterans Reading to Youth:

A Galactic Adventure

In a galaxy not so far away, young Padawans and wise Jedi Masters come together to share the power of knowledge and the joy of reading.

- **Host a day of reading at your Jedi Temple (VFW Post), local park, or visit a school. Did you know that National Read a Book Day is celebrated on September 6th across the galaxy?**
- **Did you know that Read Across America is celebrated on March 2nd? Join forces with fellow readers to explore new worlds and adventures.**
- **Utilize the list of patriotic books found in the Jedi Archives under Member Resources, under Youth Activities. These books will inspire and ignite the spirit of the Force within you.**
- **Create a Jedi Library to always have on hand. When your Jedi Temple hosts family-style meals where younglings might be present, use those books to set up an area where children and Jedi Masters can read to one another.**



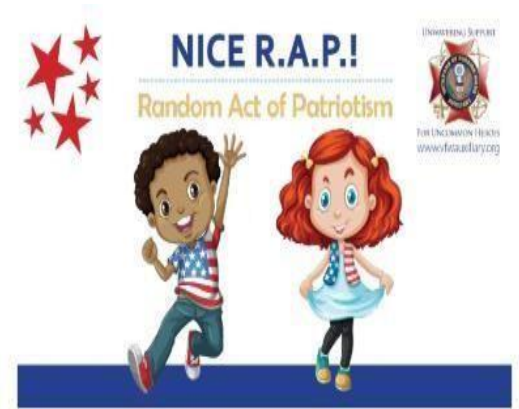
Where to get the books?

- **Check out your local thrift stores, yard sales, flea markets. Most of the time if you explain what you plan on doing with the books, people are more likely to give you a discount or they will donate it to you for free.**
- **Check out your local library and see if they have them in stock. If they do not see if your Auxiliary can donate some books off the list to the local library.**

R.A.P. Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

Praise the youth for doing a good job. Recognize them by giving them a card and explain why they are receiving it.

The card template is located in MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities. As well as on our VFW AUX MD website (<https://vfwauxmd.org/>).



Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups:

Educating our youth not only about our organization, but about America, patriotism, our Veterans and volunteering.

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

High school students can use volunteer hours for college applications and scholarships.

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.

Illustrating America Contest

- 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.

DEADLINES:

Entries must be received by:

March 31st to the Local Auxiliary

April 15th to Youth Activities Chairperson Melissa Tracey

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/>).

Youth Activities Program Awards

The form must be turned in to the Youth Activities Chairman by March 31st, 2026 for judging.

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

They are also looking for the following information:

- How many youth groups did your auxiliary work with?
 - How many youth were involved?
- How many “Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans” citations did your auxiliary award?
- Did you host an event where Veterans read patriotic books to youth and/or youth read patriotic books to the Veterans? If so how many of each were present?
- Did you promote the Illustrating America Art Contest?
- Did you give out R.A.P. Cards? If so how many?

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE PICTURES AT YOUR EVENTS AND SEND IN WITH YOUR REPORTS!



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



10 Tips for Working with Youth

When working with youth, it is important to consider their safety and needs. We would like to offer these tips and resources so that you can make sure that all youth you encounter have the best experience possible.



1. Consider taking Youth Protection training. Many organizations working with youth provide and require training. One of the best known is done by Boy Scouts. You do not need to be a member or even involved with the program in order to take their free online training. Find it here:
<http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>
2. Always respect the time commitments of youth. They are very busy. Be clear about when an event or project starts and how long it will go for. Parents also very much appreciate it when their child is finished at the stated time.
3. Parents should always be welcome to stay and take part in the activity.
4. No matter the project or event, make sure that proper safety measures are taken for everyone involved. Also, be sure that activities or projects are age appropriate.
5. Be extremely conscious of the location where you bring or meet the youths.
6. Do not smoke, drink or use drugs around them.
7. If you are taking youth somewhere other than the Post home or a school, consider getting permission slips from every parent, and make sure the parents understand that the children may be riding in personal vehicles.
8. Receive training from your local Child Abuse Prevention Council or Child Protective Center on the Mandated Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Laws in your State for those working with children.
9. Find out if you need to have individuals working with youth/children fingerprinted before working with youth. There may be laws in your state.
10. Maintain and model healthy boundaries with children - be a role model. Remember it is never appropriate to displays acts of violence or abuse around or towards children.

Remember that it only takes a minute to make a difference in the life of a child. There are lots of small, positive things we can all do to help protect and nurture our children that only take a minute. A few words of praise and encouragement to a child, listening carefully to what a child has to say, showing a child you care, all are simple actions that added together have been shown to have a profound impact on a child's life. In these very real ways, we can all support children and strengthen families.

Remember

Involve youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs!

- Marching in Patriotic Holiday Parades.
- Help veterans, service members and their families with yard work or household repairs.
- Sending cards or small gifts to the VFW National home to support families.
- Planning card and letter writing events to send mail to our troops overseas or veterans in VA facilities.

Youth Activities Chairman
Melissa Tracey
8350 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-487-2514
deptofmdyouthchair2526@gmail.com

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Patriotic Youth Award

PRESENTED TO

*Your actions and deeds are appreciated and commended by
the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.*

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

DATE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Patriotic Youth Award

PRESENTED TO

*Your actions and deeds are appreciated and commended by
the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.*

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

DATE



Youth Activities

2025 - 2026 Report Form

Melissa Tracey, Department Chairman

8350 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.

Pasadena, MD 21122

410-487-2514 deptofmdyouthchair2526@gmail.com



Auxiliary _____ District _____ Month _____ Chairman _____

Reporting Period: From _____ To _____

This month - Hours _____ Projects Cost \$ _____ Mileage _____ Volunteers # _____

How many Youth groups did your Auxiliary work with during this reporting period? # _____

Estimated number of youth involved # _____

How many "Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans" citations did your auxiliary award? # _____

Did you host an event where Veterans read patriotic books to the youth and/or

youth read patriotic books to the Veterans? Yes _____ No _____

If so how many? Veterans _____ Youth _____

Did you promote the *Illustrating America Art Contest*? Yes _____ No _____

How many students submitted entries for judging? # _____

Did you submit an entry to the Department for judging? Yes _____ No _____

Did you host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in this contests? Yes _____ No _____

Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by your auxiliary \$ _____

Did you give out R.A.P. Cards? Yes _____ No _____ If so, how many? _____

Other Youth Activities projects (use an additional sheet if necessary):