

Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary Scholarships

September 2026



Auxiliary Chairman the VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland promotes scholarship programs that encourage patriotism, support education, and help students and eligible Auxiliary families pursue future goals. Let's get out there and promote our programs by laying out the Red Carpet to all available contestants.

VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship

The Continuing Education Scholarship assists eligible VFW Auxiliary members and their immediate family members who wish to continue their education at a college, university, vocational school, or technical school. Applicants must generally be at least 21 years old, demonstrate financial need, and submit a short essay explaining their goals and how the scholarship will help them achieve those goals.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

This contest recognizes two-dimensional patriotic artwork created by students in grades 9 through 12. Students submit original art along with an explanation of the patriotism expressed in the work. State winners advance to national competition, where scholarship awards are available.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12 and focuses on original patriotic artwork created in three-dimensional form. Like the two-dimensional contest, students submit their work through a participating Auxiliary for judging.

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen is a VFW-sponsored essay contest supported by the Auxiliary. It is open to students in grades 6 through 8, including home-schooled students, and encourages young writers to reflect on patriotic themes. National awards are available for top entries.

Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Voice of Democracy is a VFW-sponsored audio-essay contest supported by the Auxiliary. It is open to students in grades 9 through 12, including home-schooled students, and provides significant national scholarship awards for outstanding entries.

VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship

- The VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible service members and veterans pursuing post-secondary education or trade school training. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 may be awarded to qualified applicants and are paid directly to accredited schools for tuition and fees. Auxiliaries can make donations to this scholarship program, and these scholarship funds should be made payable to Department of Maryland Auxiliary, and send to Treasurer Jackie Kimball at 1019 Queen Avenue Salisbury, MD 21757.

Eligibility and Deadlines

- Remind Applicants as to the eligibility requirements and deadlines for each program you are discussing these great opportunities.
- Student art entries are due to VFW Auxiliary by March 31, with Department and National deadlines following afterward.
- The Continuing Education Scholarship application period opens July 1 and applications are submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by February 15.
- The VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship accepts applications for the fall semester from January 1 through April 30 and for the spring semester from August 1 through November 15. Application made through Sports Clips.
- Local Maryland VFW Posts and Auxiliaries may also offer scholarship programs with separate rules, award amounts,

Report ***Report *****Report*******

Mary Cardinal-Vogt
250 Jendan Way Apt. 204
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
301-706-7051 maryecardinalvogt10081@gmail.com

2026-2027 Theme "What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 60,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31.

- Your local Post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. It may be delivered in person, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.**

Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

How Am I Judged?

- **Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:**
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.
- **Theme development is worth 35 points:**
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.
- **Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:**
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2026-2027 theme is:

"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight Oct. 31.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance.

You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](https://www.vfw.org/contactus) to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters at 816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2026-2027 Official Entry Form

Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

() Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own 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. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays must be anonymous. Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay. Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your 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 your individual background or experience should be avoided.
- Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

() Daytime Phone Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



2026-2027 Theme “What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. National winners will be notified of their scholarship & placement. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is,

“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

The Rules

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 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. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays **must be anonymous**. **Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay.** Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your 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 your individual background or experience should be avoided.

You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN, or biographical information.

Advancement

Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. Contact the post where you entered at to check on your advancement

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2026. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location - ensuring it is a participating Post.

How do I enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio in MP3 format (no videos) on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, a typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging.

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, Submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to a Post. Your local post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. Audio may be submitted physically on a Flash Drive, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.** Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: Visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at [VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org).

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 35 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Content is worth 30 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

2026-2027 Official Entry Form

Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's Name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on

For assistance contact:
816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:

Alternate Contact:

Phone:

Best Time To Call:





VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Official Rules and Eligibility 2026-2027

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 - \$4,500
Fourth place - \$4,000
Fifth place and Sixth place - \$1,500
Seventh place through Tenth place - \$1,000
Eleventh place - \$750
Twelfth place through Twenty-third 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 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests on the national level are not eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be original and created by the student, copying and tracing existing works is prohibited.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- 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, cardboard or foamboard.
- 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, AI 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 explaining the work and thematic relevance. 250 words or less.
- Include one photo of completed work of art.
- 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 Entry Form 2026-2027

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: _____

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. State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I certify that I have read the foregoing Official Rules and Eligibility (**page 1**) and fully understand and agree to the contents.

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published on the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for 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 Email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Name: _____

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 from the **Department President**.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Aux. Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

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

Authorized VFW Aux. 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 Aux. VFW Aux. due to VFW Aux. District judging.

Authorized VFW Aux. 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 Aux. or optional VFW Aux. District judging due to the VFW Aux. Department judging.

VFW Aux. Department President 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 Aux. Department must be received at VFW Aux. 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 Aux. National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Aux. National Convention.

August/September: Returning process begins. All art entries received at VFW Aux. 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.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Official Rules and Eligibility 2026-2027

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 - \$4,500
Fourth place - \$4,000
Fifth place and Sixth place - \$1,500
Seventh place through Tenth place - \$1,000
Eleventh place - \$750
Twelfth place through Twenty-third 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 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests on the national level are not eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be original and created by the student, copying and tracing existing works is prohibited.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- 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, cardboard or foamboard.
- 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, AI 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 explaining the work and thematic relevance. 250 words or less.
- Include one photo of completed work of art.
- 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 Entry Form 2026-2027

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: _____

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. State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I certify that I have read the foregoing Official Rules and Eligibility (**page 1**) and fully understand and agree to the contents.

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published on the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for 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 Email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Name: _____

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 from the **Department President**.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Aux. Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

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

Authorized VFW Aux. 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 Aux. VFW Aux. due to VFW Aux. District judging.

Authorized VFW Aux. 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 Aux. or optional VFW Aux. District judging due to the VFW Aux. Department judging.

VFW Aux. Department President 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 Aux. Department must be received at VFW Aux. 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 Aux. National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Aux. National Convention.

August/September: Returning process begins. All art entries received at VFW Aux. 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.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Continuing Education 2026-2027

Official Rules and Eligibility entry form

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist VFW Auxiliary members and their families who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school.

Each year, one (1) recipient will be selected from each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences and will be awarded a **\$2,250** scholarship to be used within the academic year following completion of the contest. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college/university or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice upon the completion of the scholarship activation requirements.

Rules and Eligibility:

- VFW Auxiliary member for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The spouse and the adult children of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Previous National Continuing Education Scholarship winners are not eligible.
- Essay must be in applicants' own words, using any generative AI content is prohibited.

Applicant Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applicant Address: _____
City State Zip

Applicant Email: _____

Relationship to VFW Auxiliary Member: (please $\checkmark$ one) ☐ Self ☐ Spouse ☐ Adult Child

VFW Auxiliary Member Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary Membership No.: _____ VFW Auxiliary No.: _____

*Applicant Signature: _____ Age: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission to publish my name and photo in VFW Auxiliary website, social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and/or the VFW if named a winner of a national award. I hereby verify that the entry/essay was done by the applicant listed above.

On a separate piece of paper, provide typed answers to each question listed below.

1. What is the name of the college/university or vocational /technical school you plan to attend?
2. Have you been accepted?
3. What is your intended major or course of study?
4. What is the adjusted gross income from the family's Federal Income Tax return for the prior year?
5. How many dependents are in the household?
6. What are your financial reasons for applying for the VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship?
7. Have you been awarded financial aid from any other sources? Please list/specify.
8. Write a brief essay (**300-word limit**) describing your commitment to your goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals. Essays longer than 300 words will be disqualified.

All questions must be answered for the application to be considered.

This completed form, answers and essay may be emailed to info@vfwauxiliary.org or mailed to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters 406 W. 34th Street 10th Floor Kansas City MO 64111
Attn: Program Awards Administrator

Application deadline: February 15, 2027.