



Youth Activities

September 2026



A note from your Youth Activities Chairman

Wow!! You all have been super busy already!!

Keep up the good work!

A few Auxiliaries have done the following:

- Worked with different Scouts groups
- Read to children in the community
- Provided volunteer opportunities such as an AYCE Breakfast, Friday and Saturday night dinners.
- Visited a local church and worked with children to create patriotic thank you cards while educating the children about veterans.
- Celebrated America's 250th birthday with the youth by providing coloring books, crayons, and flags.
- And quite a few Auxiliaries are collecting school supplies to donate to their local schools.



Back to School Dates

For the 2026-2027 school year, start dates range from Wednesday, August 19, 2026 (Frederick County) to Tuesday, September 1, 2026 (Wicomico County), with most districts opening between August 24 and August 31.

DC Public Schools begin August 24th



See the next two pages regarding new and important information about the Illustrating America Art Contest!

R.A.P. Recognition & Youth Acts of Kindness

R.A.P. Cards are to be given out when you witness Random Acts of Patriotism. Celebrate our youth by acknowledging their patriotic deeds. These can be found on the Member Resources page.

Promoting Illustrating America

Has your Auxiliary started to promote the Illustrating America Art Contest? The following can be found under on MALTA under Member Resources, Youth Activities.

Sample Facebook Post for VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contest

Sample Post

Do you know a student in grades K-8 with a passion for art? VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this national art contest designed to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through artistic expression. Entries will be judged on effort and the process of creation through elements like line, shape and color with focus on patriotic themes and techniques. Art entries will be judged in three grade divisions; K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each division.

Email John Doe, VFW Auxiliary _____ Youth Activities Chairmen at jdoo@emailaddress.com to find out how students in can enter. To download an entry form and see the official rules and eligibility please see the Scholarships & Contests tab at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/>

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

December 15th, 2026: Illustrating America student entries are due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for Judging.

January 15th, 2027: Illustrating America first place winner in each grade division from each participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District are due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging. (You are responsible to getting it to the Youth Activities Chairman).

January 31st: Illustrating America first place winner in each grade division from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at the VFW National Headquarters for judging.

Contact your local schools and see if the teachers can incorporate the contest as a class project.

Youth Activities Chairman: Crystal Hallen

Email: vfwauxmdyouthactivities@gmail.com

Phone Number: 443-309-6625

Mailing Address: 613 Piping Rock Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905

**This checklist can now be found on MALTA under
Member Resources, Youth Activities.**



VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Contest

Illustrating America

2026-2027

Check off list for Auxiliary, District and Department level judging.

Contest Eligibility

- ☐ Student is not a previous winner of VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contest on the national level for the same grade division of which they are entering. The student may enter the subsequent grade division.
- ☐ Student is in grade K-8 by **December 15** deadline.
- ☐ Student is 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 is a 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.
- ☐ Student is not a foreign exchange student.

Contest Rules

- ☐ Entry is original and created by the student.
- ☐ Entry is not a copy of and/or is not a tracing of existing works of art.
- ☐ Entry was completed during the current school year.
- ☐ Entry is two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- ☐ Entry is on canvas or paper.
- ☐ If canvas entry, it is submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- ☐ If paper entry. It is reinforced with heavy paper, cardboard or foamboard.
- ☐ Entry is not framed art with wood, metal, plastic or glass. Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- ☐ Entry is not smaller than 8"x10"
- ☐ Entry is not larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- ☐ Entry is not a coloring sheet.
- ☐ Entry does not include digital art, AI or photography.
- ☐ Due to the age of the student, if the American Flag is displayed in a manner that clearly identifies it as such, it **does not** need to adhere to the Federal Flag Code specifications regarding its colors and number of stars and stripes.
- ☐ Entry form is completed typed or printed legible in English.
- ☐ Entry form includes parent and/or guardian signatures.
- ☐ Students' name, age and grade level is printed on back of art entry.