



Youth Activities

October 2026

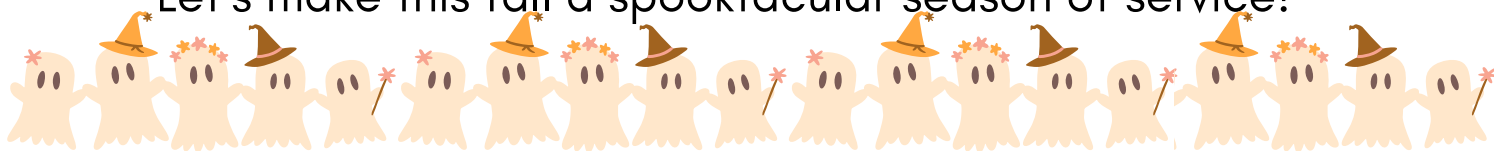


A note from your Youth Activities Chairman

As fall approaches, it's the perfect time to get our youth involved! From Halloween activities and fall festivals to patriotic projects and community service, there are so many fun ways to encourage young people to participate.

Thank you to our Auxiliaries for all you've already done this year to support and inspire our youth. Keep up the great work and continue finding creative ways to involve the next generation in patriotism, service, and supporting our veterans.

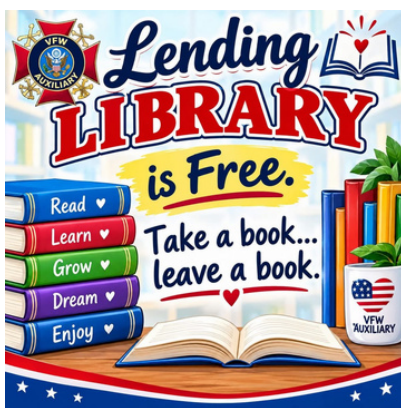
Let's make this fall a spooktacular season of service!



SHOUT OUT

A special shout out to VFW Auxiliary 5118 in Easton for building a lending library at their Post. And for sending me pictures with your reports!! And great job promoting the lending library on their social media platforms.

Check out PDP Debbie Sturgis putting books into the lending library!



**Just a reminder!! Please make sure you are sending
your reports to the following email!!!**

vfwauxmdyouthactivities@gmail.com

Trunk or Treat

Has your Auxiliary ever hosted or participated in a Trunk or Treat?? If not this might be a good year to either join other organizations who are hosting one, or maybe even host one at your Post.

How It Works

- Participants gather cars, trucks, or vans in a shared parking space—such as a school, church, or a VFW Post.
- Adults open their trunks, dress in costumes, and hand out goodies. And a suggestion maybe consider handing out patriotic items such as books and Buddy Poppies.
- Children walk safely from car to car instead of trekking through neighborhoods in the dark.
- Events often happen on the weekend before October 31st rather than on Halloween night.

Why People Like It

- **Safety:** It takes place in a contained, well-lit area away from moving street traffic.
- **Convenience:** Families can visit dozens of themed trunks in less than an hour.
- **Inclusivity:** It provides an accessible, low-stress environment for young kids or children with sensory sensitivities.

Also maybe consider hosting a contest for the best decorated trunk.

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

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



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.