Youth Activities

November 2026

A note from your Youth Activities Chairman



November is a wonderful time for Auxiliary members to connect with youth through gratitude, service, and patriotism! Veterans Day, November 11th, honors all who have served in the U.S. military, in wartime or peacetime.

Here are five ways to involve the youth this month:

1. Create thank-you cards: Partner with a school, Scout troop, or youth group to make cards for local veterans.
2. Participate in Veterans Day: Invite youth to attend a ceremony that your post is hosting, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, or read a thank-you poem.
3. Connect generations: Host a "Meet a Veteran" gathering where veterans share age-appropriate stories and youth ask questions about their service.
4. Give back together: Organize a youth-led collection of needed toiletries, socks, or pantry items for a local veterans organization.
5. Share Thanksgiving gratitude: Help youth create a "Thankful for Our Veterans" display at a school, library, or VFW Post.

Together, we can help the next generation learn the value of service and show veterans that their contributions are appreciated throughout November!

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

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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.

July 2026