

2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIPS



What is the **Continuing Education Scholarship**?

This is a scholarship that is offered by the National VFW Auxiliary to assist members and immediate family members of the VFW Auxiliaries who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational, technical or trade school of their choice.



To be eligible: Any Auxiliary member of at least one year, their spouse, son or daughter, who is at least 21 years of age. Complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. Deadline to National HQ: **February 15, 2027.**

2026-2027 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Theme: *"What A Veteran Taught Me About America."*

It is a vocal recording of a written essay with time limit of 3 to 5 minutes

Eligible: Students in grades 9 through 12 who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial 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. U.S. citizenship is not required, but students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents and intend to become U.S. citizens.

The deadline for entries to be delivered to local VFW post is **October 31, 2026.**

2026-2027 VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Theme: *"What A Veteran Taught Me About America."*

Eligible: Students in grades 6 through 8 who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, territories or possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Same citizenship policy as VOD contest.

The deadline for entries to be delivered to local VFW post is **October 31, 2026.**

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST 2 AND 3-DIMENSIONAL ART CONTEST

Contest Eligibility: Students in grades 9 through 12 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or is a dependent of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. U.S. citizenship is not required, but the student must be a lawful U.S. permanent resident and intend to become a citizen of the U.S.

NOTE: These are two separate Art Contests!

Deadline for both the 2 and 3-Dimensional contests delivered to local VFW Auxiliary **March 31, 2027.**

Increase Student Participation

Identify "points of contact" within your local schools, home-school associations, youth sports teams, scout troops, church youth groups, and art schools. Use social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, your post or Auxiliary social media to promote the contests. Work with English and art teachers, scout leaders, coaches, ministers, and parents to encourage their students to enter the contests. Print applications for each of the contests to be ready for distribution to anyone interested. Promote the contests in your local newspapers and on local radio.

Your Timeline

June

Pick up program material at Officer & Member's Training.

July

Review the packet and check out the website.

Report on your activity.

August

Start contacting schools, Scout troops, etc.

September

Drop off entry forms at schools, churches, etc.

Report on your activity.

October

Collect VOD and PP essay entries by October 31, 2026 Scholarship

Auxiliary Chairman and deliver to your Post for judging.

Notify applicants parents receipt of entry and process.

Report on your activity.

November

Deliver your first-place winners to the District.

Recognize Students who participated.

Report on your activity (*including any monetary awards*)

December

Monetary contribution made towards Continuing Education.

Report on your activity.

January 2027

Department VOD-PP Awards Ceremony.

Report on your activity (attendance, pictures).

February 2027

Advise Continuing Education Scholarship applicants to send their forms directly to National by February 15, 2027.

March 2027

Accept Young American Creative Patriotic Art 2 and 3-Dimensional Art delivered to Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman by March 31st.

April 2027

Forward art projects to Department Auxiliary Chairman by April 15th.

Include a photograph of the artwork. Send final report by April 15th.



Recognition is the to Success!

Ways to recognize your winners:

-  Host an awards ceremony at your post or district.
-  Present your winners with a gift or certificate.
-  Invite the winners to an auxiliary meeting and ask them to lead the Pledge of Allegiance or to read their essay at a Post event.
-  Plan to present awards at the school during an assembly.
-  Present your awards at a Scout meeting.
-  Contact the local newspaper to feature your winners.
-  Use the sample press release found on MALTA.



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