



Youth Activities

2026-2027



VFW Auxiliary Lending Library

Did you know that approximately 61% of low-income families do not have any children's books in their homes. And to combat that statistic, this year's Youth Activities Ambassador is encouraging all Auxiliaries to create a Lending Library for their community.

The libraries can be placed anywhere (with proper approval, of course). Some examples are outside your Post, at the community center, local baseball field, maybe even your local pediatrician's office.

These lending libraries can be as simple as a basket with books or maybe even see if someone in your community could make you a wooden box that can withstand the elements outside.

Be sure to stock the lending library with books from the Patriotism Through Literacy list found on the National website.



FYI -The National Award for Youth Activities is for the most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

What counts as a Youth Group?

There are many different types of Youth Groups in your community.

Some examples are:

- Young Marines
- Scouts
- 4-H
- Future Business Leaders of America
- YMCA
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- National Honors Society
- Sports teams
- Church youth groups

What other groups can you think of?

Examples of Lending Libraries



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.

Illustrating America Updates!!

Important reminder: There are several CHANGES this year to the DUE DATES.

The Illustrating America schedule starting for the 2026-2027 year is:

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.

Patriotism through Literacy

Your auxiliary can help promote and support reading among our youth with a few fun, simple, and maybe inexpensive ways.

Ways to Promote Patriotism through Literacy (a few suggestions but not limited to):

- Volunteer to read historical or picture books at your local library, school, or daycare.
- Donate historical fiction and historical nonfiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries.
- Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes for the number of books or the hours read.
- Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading.

The list of suggested books can be found on MALTA under Member Resources.

Most of the books can be purchased from Amazon, or you may be able to find them at your local thrift store.

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