

# Some People Still Don't Know about VFW Youth Programs

The first step is to identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss VFW youth scholarship opportunities. Here are a few suggestions of groups who might be interested in what you have to say:

- Schools
- Church or youth groups
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops
- Home school associations
- Parent Teacher associations or equivalent
- Youth sports teams
- JROTC and/or Civil Air Patrol

Next, you need to schedule an appointment to discuss VFW's youth scholarship opportunities. Here's what you do:

- 1) Call the school or organization, explain your mission and ask with whom you should speak. The individual who answers the phone may:
  - a) connect you with that person,
  - b) allow you to leave a message, or c) ask you to leave a number for the person to call. Here's what you can say:

*"This is Joe Smith. I represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1234. We have a number of scholarship programs that will benefit your students and teachers. Is there someone on staff with whom I could make an appointment to discuss VFW youth scholarship opportunities?"*

When you leave a voice mail or talk with the individual, use the approach above and end with the following:

*"Is there a time when I could come by and take 15 minutes to show you how VFW can benefit your students and teachers?"*

Before the appointment, do your homework. Familiarize yourself thoroughly with the programs you'll be pitching. You'll want to know who can participate and when the deadlines are. Make sure you have enough copies of the appropriate program brochures\* for the teacher/leader and potential participants. Furthermore, be sure you are able to answer the following questions prior to your interview:

- Do I understand and can I answer all questions about the programs I am presenting? (Read the brochures and program manual if you don't.)
- How many young people are potential program participants?
- Is this the first time VFW programs have been presented at this location? (If it is not, you may wish to reference the relationship that already exists.)
- Am I aware of any past winners from this school or community group? (You should mention any past winners or participants from the area.)
- Do I have all the brochures I need to leave with the teacher or youth leader?

\*To download or forward electronic copies of the brochures please visit: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) log in, and look under chairman guides or call VFW Store (800- 821-2606) to purchase copies of the entry form.

The web page listed above contains student entry forms, special brochures designed for teachers and the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award nomination form/brochure.

When you visit a school, take advantage of the opportunity to share about the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award. Teachers who use our scholarship programs are especially good candidates for this award given annually to three teachers teaching in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Winners receive \$1,000 for their professional development, an all expenses paid trip to a VFW national event to receive their award and a \$1000 check for their school.

The day of your appointment has arrived. Show up five minutes early and leave your VFW cap in the car. (To avoid problems, most schools don't permit students to wear head-gear of any kind. But, should you ever be invited to present an award or make a classroom presentation, ask if your VFW cap would be appropriate.) Thank the individual for their time and, in 60 seconds or less, explain each scholarship program that is appropriate to the individual with whom you are speaking. (A middle school teacher probably wouldn't be interested in VOD, because that program is only open to students in grades 9-12.) Here is an example of what you could say to explain VOD:

*"VFW's Voice of Democracy Program is an audio-essay contest that provides more than \$2.3 million in scholarships each year. Students in grades 9-12 write an essay on a patriotic theme, record their essay on a cassette or CD and enter at our VFW Post. If they win at the Post level, they can proceed to the District, state and national levels and receive scholarship money at each level. The first place state winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete for \$152,000 in scholarships. The largest scholarship is \$30,000, and everyone receives at least \$1,000."*

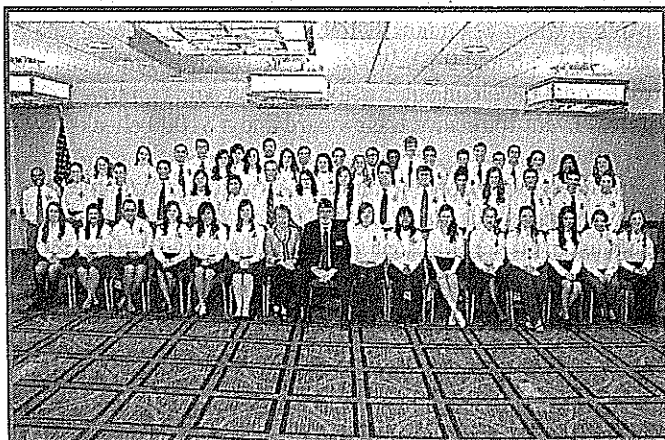
After you have presented all the programs, ask the individual how many brochures they will need to conduct the programs. Provide the materials you have prepared and explain that you can make more available if needed. Let them know that you are willing to present the programs directly to a class if they wish. Now it's time to leave. Conclude your visit by ensuring you have:

- Answered all their questions.
- Provided the appropriate brochures.
- Left your contact information for the teacher/leader.

- Explained the deadlines and when you will pick up the entries.
- Ask if you can leave posters to publicize the programs. (See VFW Store items 4431 and 4433.) Past winning essay flyers are also available (via email). Send an email to: Kharmer@vfw.org or call 816.968.1117

The visit is over, but you're still not done. About one week later, drop the teacher/leader a note that reaffirms:

- Your gratitude for their meeting with you.
- Your availability to provide additional materials or present the program to the participants.
- The deadlines and when you will pick up the entries.
- That you will notify them when the winners are announced and awards presented.



The 2013 Voice of Democracy winners during their awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

#### **Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition:**

9th- through 12th-graders write and record a broadcast script on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2 million in college scholarships. Department winners visit Washington, D.C., and compete for \$152,000 in scholarships with a \$30,000 first place scholarship.

#### **Patriot's Pen Essay Contest:**

6th, 7th and 8th-grade students express their opinion on a patriotic theme in a written essay. State winners compete for \$46,000 in awards. The first place national winner receives a \$5,000 award.

#### **Scout of the Year Award:**

Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Silver Award recipients, and Sea Scout Quartermasters can win one of three national scholarships:

**First Place: \$5,000**

**Second Place: \$3,000**

**Third Place: \$1,000**

Here are some additional tips that should help your scholarship programs run more effectively.

### **Judging**

- Invite your judges early, preferably in the spring or summer.
- Select them carefully, looking for individuals who are familiar with good writing and/or public speaking and preferably not from your Post or Auxiliary.
- Consider local newspaper reporters, broadcasters, retired teachers, civic leaders and individuals who work with young people.
- Be sure to invite your judges to the awards presentation and recognize them publicly.
- If you choose your judges correctly, equip them adequately and honor them properly, they are often willing to serve year after year.

**Important:** Remember our desire is to include as many students as possible, not exclude students. An entry should never be disqualified for misinterpreting the theme. That is part of the process and there is no such thing as an incorrect interpretation of the theme. That is up to the student. Also, don't be too strict regarding time or words. If the student is less than 15 seconds over or under on their recording or 20 words too long or short, go ahead and judge the entry and make sure your judges understand this degree of latitude.

### **Work With The Ladies**

Many of our most successful Posts enjoy the benefit of the involvement of the Ladies Auxiliary in our scholarship programs. Be sure you invite the Ladies to participate and be sure to present their Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest when you present VFW programs.

### **Start Early**

Seek opportunities to present our programs early in the year, particularly in a school setting. Most teachers make their curriculum decisions in the spring for the following fall. The new scholarship themes are published on the web site in early January. Contacting schools in April gives the teachers and leaders ample opportunity to consider our programs for the following year. If you do this in April, they will be anticipating your call or visit in late August or September and will be more likely to welcome your programs.

### **In Conclusion**

We cannot say "thank you" too often. I know the hours of commitment required to run a successful scholarship program. I know that many of you give up time with your family, put miles on your car and occasionally dip into your own pocket to make our programs successful in your area. You are the reason we in the Programs Office exist. The things that you do put a positive face on your Post in the community. We deeply appreciate the commitment you bring to VFW programs. The efforts you put forth provide benefits to your community, its families and young people beyond anything you can see or imagine. Thank you for all you do.

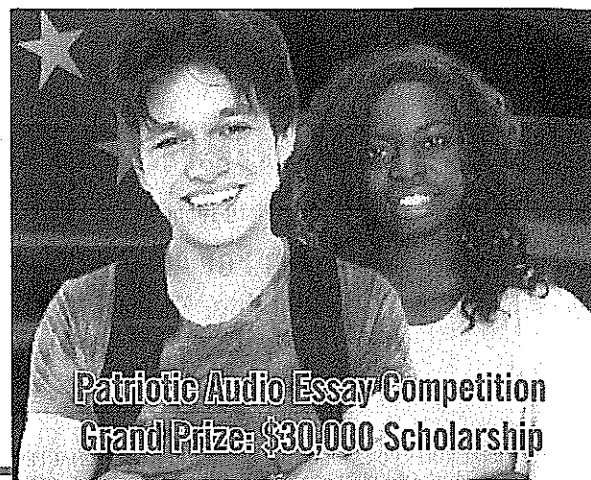
Sincerely,

Daniel J. Parker  
Director, VFW Programs

# Voice of Democracy

2015 - 16 Theme

**"My Vision For America"**  
**Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2015**



**Patriotic Audio Essay Competition**  
**Grand Prize: \$30,000 Scholarship**

## WHAT IS THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, almost 40,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is: *My Vision for America*.

## WHY SHOULD I ENTER?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., Feb 27 - March 2, 2016, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$152,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

## THE RULES

### Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Nov. 1 deadline, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

### What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) essay on an audio CD or a flash drive. One student per CD or flash drive. Preferred format for CD's is the audio CD format. When burning your CD, make sure that "Create Audio CD" option (or similar) is selected so the program can properly convert your sound file and burn it to CD. After it has finished, be sure to play back your audio CD on a system other than your computer, such as a standard radio or car CD player, to verify that the conversion/burning process was successful. Label the recording, neatly typed essay and attach this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or local VFW Post for judging. All recordings must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should contact the Voice of Democracy National Office at (816) 968-1117 for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. You may enter only one Voice of Democracy competition per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a head and shoulders photograph, SSN, or biographical information.

### Where do I submit my entry?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. If a qualified student is attending school overseas, please email [kharmer@vfw.org](mailto:kharmer@vfw.org) for additional instructions.

## 2015-16 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )  
Phone

E-mail

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and E-mail (if applicable)

First Name You'd Like on a Name Badge

Jacket Size

**TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT'S PARENT/  
GUARDIAN** (required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

( )

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's E-mail

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES  
(ON OPPOSITE SIDE)**

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

# Voice of Democracy

2015 - 16 Theme

## "My Vision For America"

Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2015

### OFFICIAL RULES FOR STUDENTS ADVANCING TO NATIONAL LEVEL

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. Feb 27-March 2, 2016 as a guest of the VFW National Organization.

I understand that state winners who do not attend as stated above will forfeit all rights to compete in the National Finals and will be replaced by their state's second place winner.

In the event my tape is selected for entry into the National Voice of Democracy Competition, I do hereby for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns; waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the several Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the VFW Voice of Democracy Competition and/or arising out of my travel to and during the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my tape, essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW POST

I certify that this student is an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Post Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

No. of students participating \_\_\_\_\_

No. of winners advanced to District \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DISTRICT

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging and will attend the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Department Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_. Note: National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to make travel arrangements for them to be in Washington, D.C.

One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. State winners are invited to Washington, D.C where their audio essays compete in the finals competition.

### WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR MY ENTRY?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Nov. 1, 2015. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, call (816) 968-1117, e-mail to [kharmer@vfw.org](mailto:kharmer@vfw.org) or visit our website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), selecting the "Find A Post" option.

### WHAT ARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

*The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.*



Veterans of Foreign Wars & Ladies Auxiliary  
National Headquarters  
Kansas City, Missouri  
816.968.1117  
E-Mail: [kharmer@vfw.org](mailto:kharmer@vfw.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

Revised 1/2015

### LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION :

CONTACT: Angela Norvis

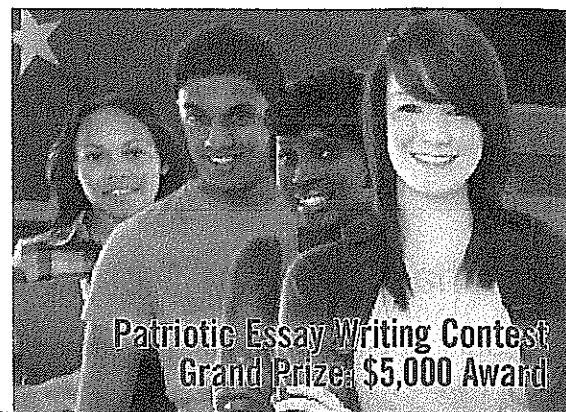
PHONE: 910 840 3848 BEST TIME TO CALL : \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE CONTACT: Jason Schoolcraft

PHONE: 642-7105 BEST TIME TO CALL : \_\_\_\_\_

# Patriot's Pen

2015 - 16 Theme  
"What Freedom Means to Me"  
Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2015



## WHAT IS PATRIOTS PEN?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 120,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

## BIG NATIONAL PRIZES

National Awards Total: \$50,000

Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000	7th: \$1,750
2nd: \$4,000	8-9th: \$1,500
3rd: \$3,500	10-11th: \$1,250
4th: \$2,750	12-13th: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	14-15th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	16-54th: \$500

The Internal Revenue Service requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable.

## HOW DOES THE CONTEST WORK?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This participating Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

## WHO CAN ENTER?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Nov. 1 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools can participate too. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the national finals are excluded from the contest.)

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition.

## 2015-16 OFFICIAL STUDENT PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

E-mail

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and E-mail (if applicable)

Parent/Guardian's name phone/email

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEST RULES

Signature of Student Participant

Date

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW POST

I certify that this student is an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

Ladies Auxillary President's/Chairman's Signature

Post Address

City, State, Zip

No. of students participating No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, plns, etc.) \$

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DISTRICT

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

( )

Phone

E-mail

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Department Competition, and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature

( )

Daytime Phone

E-mail

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Note:** National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to notify them of their national placement.

# Patriot's Pen

## 2015-16 Theme

### "What Freedom Means to Me"

Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2015

- Contact a local VFW Post within your local area within your state and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its Ladies Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Nov. 1, 2015.

#### HOW AM I JUDGED?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the theme. A positive approach is recommended to express your viewpoint.

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:  
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:  
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:  
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

#### WHAT IS THE THEME?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2015-16 theme is **What Freedom Means to Me**.

#### WHAT ARE THE RULES?

- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words.
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated.) Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. At any time during the contest additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.)

In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay. Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once (one Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule

will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received. The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

#### DEADLINE INFORMATION

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight November 1, 2015.

#### Note --

All entries must be submitted to a VFW Post competition. If you have difficulty identifying a sponsoring Post in your area, call the Patriot's Pen national office at: (816) 968-1117 or e-mail: [kharmer@vfw.org](mailto:kharmer@vfw.org). You may also visit our website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), selecting the "Find A Post" option.

#### LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION

CONTACT: Angela Norris  
PHONE: 9108403848 BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_  
ALTERNATE CONTACT: Jason Schoolcraft  
PHONE 9106427105 BEST TIME TO CALL: \_\_\_\_\_



Patriot's Pen Competition  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
National Headquarters  
& Ladies Auxiliary

Kansas City, Missouri  
(816) 968-1117  
E-Mail: [kharmer@vfw.org](mailto:kharmer@vfw.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)



## Contest Rules

Art must be on paper or canvas. Water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink, or oil may be used. **Digital art is not accepted.**

**Do not frame!** Submit canvas entries on stretcher frames. **Other entries must be matted on white.** Do not use other color mats. In matting, use heavy paper to reinforce back. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

- Be sure to complete entry form and attach to back of entry.
- Note that you must be sponsored by a Ladies Auxiliary or a foreign-based Ladies Auxiliary or Post.

Package art so that it can be mailed without being damaged.

If you use the American Flag in your entry, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code as far as color, number of stars and stripes, and other pertinent rules of the code.

Entry must have been done during the current school year—note that you must have your teacher's signature. Each student may submit only one entry.

Each entry will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism expressed; the content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of work; and uniqueness.

## Eligibility

Students must be in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12.

Students must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring Ladies Auxiliary. Home-schooled students are eligible; foreign-exchange students are not.

National winners of the past contests may not compete in future Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests.

### NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,000	First Place
\$5,000	Second Place
\$2,500	Third Place
\$1,500	Fourth Place
\$500	Fifth – Eighth Place

FIRST PRIZE includes a plaque and airfare plus two nights' lodging to attend the Ladies Auxiliary National Convention. The first-place art will be featured on the cover of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine and on the Auxiliary website.

Second and third place will be featured in the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine and on the website. Fourth through eighth places will be featured on the website only.

The winning entries will be held so they can be displayed at the Ladies Auxiliary National Convention. They will be returned directly to the students.

## Deadlines

### Student Deadline

March 31. Participants must submit entries to a local Ladies Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman by this date. The first-place winner from each Ladies Auxiliary will be sent to the Department Scholarships Chairman for judging.

### District Judging

(Optional) If held, the District winners must meet the Department deadline for judging.

### Department Judging

Ladies Auxiliary or District entries must be received by the Department Scholarships Chairman by April 15!

### National Deadline

Department entries in the National Contest must be received at Ladies Auxiliary VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, 10th floor, Kansas City, Missouri 64111 by **May 5! Only the first-place Department winner is eligible for the national competition (This means a total of 51 are eligible, one from every state and the District of Columbia).**

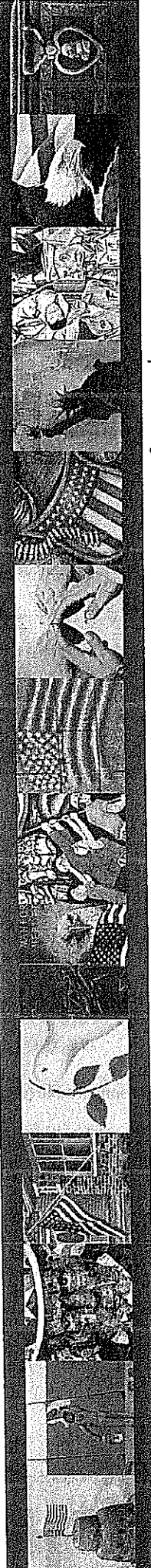
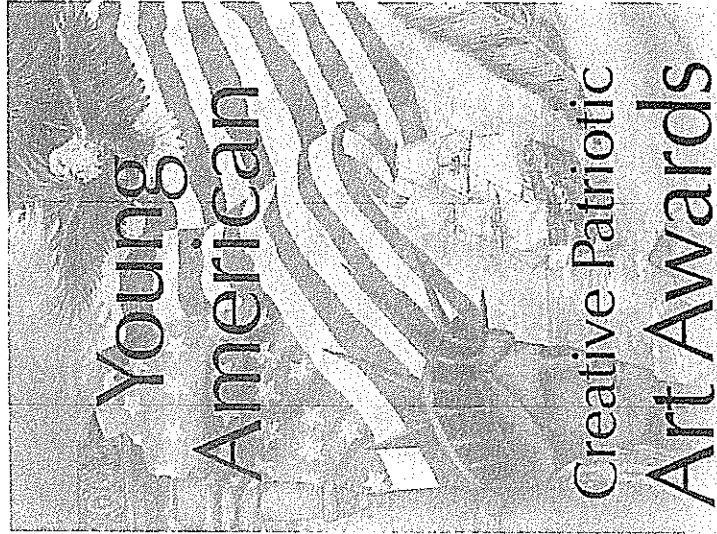
## Judges

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals, and persons knowledgeable in art. Comments of local and state judges will be attached to and forwarded with the art.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES



CODE 4/12

Angela Norris  
840 3848



# Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards

## CONTEST APPLICATION

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date Art Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Signature verifying that the entry was done by you \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine and on the Ladies Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top national awards.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

State the source of your idea for entry: magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of the other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

Source \_\_\_\_\_ Media used in entry (e.g., colored pencil, oil paint) \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE ATTACH A TYPED EXPLANATION OF PATRIOTISM EXPRESSED IN ART

**Non-sponsored artwork will be returned without being judged.**

Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Date Judged \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by Ladies Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman of Judges' Signature (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT JUDGING (Optional)

Date Judged \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by District Scholarships Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman of Judges' Signature (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENT JUDGING

Date Judged \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by Department Scholarships Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman of Judges' Signature (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

Only department first-place winner art must be received at the Ladies Auxiliary VFW National Headquarters  
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, for National Judging by May 5 or it will be disqualified.



### VFW Teacher Nomination Form

Please photocopy or cut out and attach to nomination essay.

### Nominated Teacher

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject and grade taught: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current school: \_\_\_\_\_  
School address: \_\_\_\_\_  
School phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate piece of paper, please describe (type or print) in 350 words or less why you feel your nominee should be selected for the Smart/ Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award, then sign the nomination statement.

Submit nomination materials to your local VFW Post. Visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) for locations.

**DO NOT** send to VFW National Headquarters.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of words in essay (not to exceed 350). Please provide this information.

### Person Nominating Teacher

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline:** Submit to local VFW Post by February 15.

## VFW Honors America's Teachers



**Smart/Maher  
VFW National  
Citizenship Education  
Teacher Award**  
Grades K-12



**I**dentify and recognize  
America's best educators.  
Wouldn't you like to see them  
get the honor they deserve?

*Now you can.*



**For more information,**  
contact your local VFW Post  
or its Ladies Auxiliary or visit  
our website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States**  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 756-3390 ext. 287  
E-Mail: [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

### Local VFW Post Information

Angela Norris  
910840 3848  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Recognize teachers who care about America

### VFW Cares About Education

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education Programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. It offers cash awards, commemorative plaques and all-expenses-paid trips to the VFW National Convention for these worthy teachers. The trip provides an opportunity for winners to network with like-minded individuals.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can...

VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions effectively.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today with the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

### How Does the Contest Work?

Based on the nominees submitted, VFW local chapters, called Posts, will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Posts then submit these winners' names to their District-level judging, who will forward their winners to the Department (or state) level. After judging, each Department then forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.

### Who is eligible?

All current classroom teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners and homeschool teachers are ineligible.

Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

### How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure. In 350 words or less, describe why you feel your nominee should be selected.

Describe the teacher's innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his or her dedication to education. Please submit your completed nomination form and signed essay to your local VFW Post. Visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at (816) 756-3390 ext. 287 to find the Post nearest to you.

All Post-level nominees, if they win, should provide a one-page resume, up to five pages of documentation of their teaching experience (preferences, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves. These items will be forwarded on to the District with the nomination form and essay.

### When is the deadline?

Nominations must be submitted to your local Post by February 15. Judging occurs February 16-28.

### What are the National awards?

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards include the items below:

- A national \$1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses.
- \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school.
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school.
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.

NOTE: (Winners will receive a 1099-MISC as a result of their award and all-expense paid trip.)

### Nominate Someone Deserving

Have a teacher in mind? Complete the nomination form and required essay, then submit it to your local VFW Post. The investment that a teacher makes in today's youth will be the dividends we will all reap from future leaders.