

SCHOLARSHIPS AMBASSADOR



DINA HUDSON

32 Montana Road
Fairmont, WV 26554
304-657-0557
scholarshipvfw2425@aol.com

As a mother of two adult children, wife of a Marine Corps veteran and high school English teacher for 30 years, I can appreciate how important our scholarship opportunities are for students and families.

With the soaring cost of higher education and technical schools, the VFW Auxiliary is proud to offer scholarship opportunities for Auxiliary members, their immediate families and our youth. Education opens doors and creates opportunities. We are investing in our children by investing in their future to assure a brighter tomorrow for us all.

Continuing Education Scholarship

This scholarship is available to Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. This is the only scholarship limited by membership.

The Continuing Education Scholarship is \$1,250 and is awarded to one winner in each of the four Conferences. This scholarship will be paid directly to the American college or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice. See page 46 for more details.

What can you do to help? Spread the word! Put this information on your Post and Auxiliary websites, social media, and newsletters. Often, we forget to get this information to colleges. No one will fill out a scholarship application faster than a college student trying to finish a degree. Visit your local colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools.

Most will have a designated person who will distribute these applications to their students. Brochures and applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/ and in MALTA under Member Resources. We want to flood our national staff with applications!

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

The VFW Auxiliary is proud to offer this two-dimensional art contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest now offers 19 National scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. Find more details on page 46.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art is the Auxiliary's newest contest in the Scholarships Program. We are proud to offer this contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12, offering four National scholarships: \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second place, \$1,000 for third place and \$500 for fourth place paid to the college of winner's choice. Find more details on page 46.

Again, what can you do to help? Spread the word! Put this information on your Post and Auxiliary websites, social media and newsletters. Send information to schools, churches, and other youth groups. Where you find kids, you will find participants. Just putting the information out to schools is not enough. Teachers are busy with their prescribed curriculum and do not always have time to dedicate to contests, so here's an idea! Host an art day at your Post and invite your local youth groups. This will take some planning, but what a wonderful, wholesome day of fun and learning you could provide. The earlier we get our youth involved, the better we pave the way for future membership.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund needs your help to reward more of our young patriotic artists at the National level. Consider holding a fundraiser designated for Patriotic Art with your Post and Auxiliary.

VFW's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

Students from public, parochial, online and home study programs compete through written and oral essays in the VFW's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy \scholarship contest. The Patriot's Pen is a short, written essay for scholars in grades 6-8. The Voice of Democracy is a written essay and a vocal recording of that essay for scholars in grades 9-12. Find more details on page 47. Be sure to celebrate and recognize all students, teachers, parents and members who participate in and promote these scholarships. Invite your local media to attend and cover award ceremonies. The VFW store offers certificates for awards. Shop the VFW Store online at vfwstore.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM

Student Participation • Recipient Recognition • Community Awareness • Increasing the Fund

Each of our scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members.

Continuing Education Scholarship

Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 21 years old, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15:

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email it to info@vfwauxiliary.org
\$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available from Department Scholarships Chairmen or in MALTA Member Resources.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest AND 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

Open to any student in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high 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. 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please see the student brochure in MALTA Member Resources for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines for Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art:

Entries received by:

Participating VFW Auxiliary – March 31
(District Judging is OPTIONAL)

VFW Auxiliary Department – April 15

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – May 5

National Scholarships: Young American Creative Patriotic Art

First Place – \$15,000

Second Place – \$7,500

Third Place – \$3,500

Fourth and Fifth Place – \$1,500

Sixth and Seventh Place – \$1,000

Eighth through Nineteenth Place – \$500

National Scholarships: 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art

First place - \$2,500

Second place - \$1,500

Third place - \$1,000

Fourth place - \$500

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice. Please promote this contest in your area. We have talented and creative artists waiting to be discovered.

Please note that the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is an additional scholarship and separate from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. See the official rules for art forms that are accepted for this contest.

Recognition Is Key

It is important that scholarship winners receive recognition at every level.

Ways to Recognize Winners:

- Present a certificate and/or gift.
- Ask the winner to give a speech or lead the Pledge of Allegiance at an Auxiliary event.
- Host an awards ceremony.
- Present awards at a school assembly.
- Contact local media to feature winners in the news.
- Sample press releases available online in MALTA Member Resources.
- Invite winners to participate in a Conference.
- Don't forget to recognize the parents and teachers!

To Donate to the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund

Log in to MALTA. Click on "Make a Gift."

Select Patriotic Art

or

Mail checks earmarked Patriotic Art to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund

406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111

2024-2025 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Theme: Is America today, our forefather's Vision?

Open to students in grades 9-12 by the October 31 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 dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 older, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31

Post Judging Complete – November 15

Department Judging Complete – January 10

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

National Awards:

First Place – \$35,000 scholarship

Second Place – \$21,000 scholarship

Third Place – \$15,000 scholarship

Fourth through 36th Place – \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship

37th - 53rd Place – \$1,000 scholarship

2024-2025 VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Theme: My Voice in America's Democracy?

Open to students in grades 6-8, by the October 31 deadline who are enrolled in 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. 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 and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.) One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31

Post Judging Complete – November 15

Department Judging Complete – January 10

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

National Awards:

First Place – \$5,000

Second Place – \$4,000

Third Place – \$3,500

Fourth through 53rd Place – \$2,750 to \$500

Scholarship and Contest Resources

Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources:

- VFW website:
vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- MALTA Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website:
vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
- Promotions from National Ambassador
- VFW Store: vfwstore.org or 1-833-VFW-VETS

Get The Word Out!

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

- Schools and JROTC Units
- Faith-based youth groups
- Youth-focused organizations
- Home-school associations
- Parent-teacher associations
- Youth sports teams
- Financial aid offices
- Student veteran center
- Scouts
- Young Marines

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarships Ambassador by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Scholarships Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 46.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.