

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2026-2027

*STUDENT PARTICIPATION*RECIPIENT RECOGNITION*
PROMOTING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES*INCREASING THE FUNDS*

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. Our National Scholarship Ambassador, Kim Davis is asking that we participate in the four fundamentals of this program as stated above.

Promoting Scholarship Opportunities: as a scholarship chairman in your Auxiliary you should first look at all the resources and gather the information that the VFW and the Auxiliary is promoting through this program. The VFW Auxiliary is proud to be a longtime supporter of the VFW and their scholarships, contests, programs and grants. These consist of the following: VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship; an audio-essay competition provides for students in grades 9-12 with the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. This year's theme is: **“WHAT A VETERAN TAUGHT ME ABOUT AMERICA”**. **Local deadline October 31, 2026.**

VFW Patriot's Pen Scholarship; this essay contest encourages young minds for students in grades 6-8 to examine America's history, along with their experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300-400 word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is the same as the Voice of Democracy: **“WHAT A VETERAN TAUGHT ME ABOUT AMERICA”**. **Local deadline October 31, 2026.**

VFW's “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”; introduced in 2013, this VFW program awards scholarships to qualifying service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Although we ask that you promote this program through sharing of this information, any donations made to the “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” should be reported under the Veterans and Family Support Program. Applications for the spring semester will be accepted August 1 through November 15, 2026 and awarded in January 2027. Applications for the fall semester will be accepted January 1, through April 30, 2027 and awarded in August 2027.

Please see the VFW Website for contest themes, official forms, rules and eligibility: www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education. Or visit the Kansas Auxiliary website: www.vfwauxks.org/programs/scholarships.

The final VFW Scholarship Opportunity is the Kansas VFW Endowment Scholarship. This scholarship is available for members, children or grandchildren of a Kansas Veteran of Foreign War or its VFW Auxiliary. Application may be found at the Kansas VFW web-site: www.vfwks.org/programs/endowmentapplication or on the Kansas Auxiliary website: www.vfwauxks.org/program/scholarships. **All local applications received must be to Department VFW Headquarters by February 1, 2027.** Donations to this program are greatly encouraged and should be sent to Kansas Department Treasurer, Jeanette Cox.

Scholarship opportunities available from the VFW Auxiliary are as follows:

Continuing Education Scholarship; open to any VFW 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, 2027. \$2,250 will be awarded to one applicant in each of the four conferences. We have seen this increase from \$1,000.00 and so with additional donations from the Auxiliaries this amount could be increased. Please consider donating to this fund, either by paying directly on MALTA click on “Make a Gift”, select Continuing Education or mail checks to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters earmarked Continuing Education Fund. Applications can be found in MALTA Member Resources or on the Kansas Auxiliary web-site: www.vfwauxks.org/programs/scholarships,
Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest; These two Patriotic Art Contests are 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. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of the same previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. Official forms and contest rules can be found in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary Department web-site. Again funding is always needed for these programs to be able to increase the amount awarded to the winners. To support these two programs escrow funds, go to MALTA, click on “Make a Gift” select Patriotic Art or mail checks to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters earmarked Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund.

Now that we have discussed the Promoting of the Scholarships and increasing the Funds, what should you do next? We are encouraging you to get as many students participating in these contests as possible. Advertise, put articles in newspapers, and talk to the youth groups in your communities. And of course, if you, as a member, have children or grandchildren eligible for any of these, make sure you are getting the information to them!!

Lastly let's roll out the **“RED CARPET”**!! I want to know how you recognized your local winners, perhaps a small ceremony at school, a local VFW/Auxiliary dinner or pictures in a newsletter or newspaper. Let the community know about our opportunities for their students to earn additional scholarship monies and then spread the word when the awards are presented. And don't forget to thank your teachers, and judges for helping with these contests.

I am proud to be your VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman for the Scholarship Program this year. Let's make this a very productive and fantastic year for our students, members, veterans and their families by participating and reporting on these scholarships. Of course if you have any questions, please ask.

Sherri Jeffery, Chairman
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