

SCHOLARSHIPS AMBASSADOR

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*Shine your light -- others will be
drawn by your brilliance*

My interest and excitement for the Scholarships Program comes from my direct involvement in and from seeing firsthand the incredible talent and creativity possessed by our youth and our members, their spouses and children.

A 2023 trip to Washington, D.C. as Department President allowed me to be there for the presentation of the awards for VFW scholarships – a full circle experience that showed me how vital it is to recognize and reward talented youth and how it enriches the lives of those who participate. This is why I am excited to serve as a National Ambassador and promote our Auxiliary Scholarships. Our communities benefit directly on many levels from the Scholarships Program, and we need to show just how valuable this Program really is. The excitement and creativity that you show all year long in this Program is the key to making it work!

Continuing Education Scholarship

We have had fewer applicants than we hoped for with this scholarship contest. It is a well-kept secret that shouldn't be a secret at all! It is vital that we get the word out to our members who, along with their family members, are the individuals who qualify for this opportunity.

In addition to getting more and more members, their spouses and children to apply for this

scholarship, we also want to grow the Continuing Education Scholarship escrow fund so we can award more money to students per Conference, per year. This is VFW Auxiliary National President Lois Callahan's special project for her year, as Continuing Education is close to her heart. At one time, she benefited from such a scholarship.

Find more details on how to contribute to Lois Callahan's special project at the front of this book.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

The VFW Auxiliary has been recognizing talented young artists for more than 45 years through its Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. We need to spread the word about this scholarship to the areas where the young artists are like schools, churches, skate parks, restaurants, etc. Use your imagination – better yet, get some ideas from your kids and grandkids! Talk to youth leaders, teachers and counselors for other ideas and suggestions. Be sure to get permission from schools and businesses before posting information about our scholarship contests.

The Scholarships link on the VFW Auxiliary National Website contains everything that you need to learn about our scholarships; how to apply, where to submit the entry, etc. Use the information listed there to ensure that you follow through with all necessary steps and meet deadlines.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

This contest is the newest for the VFW Auxiliary. The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is also available to students Grades 9-12.

All Patriotic Art brochures are available to order from National Headquarters or download from MALTA for you to use to get the word out to as many people and community partners as possible.

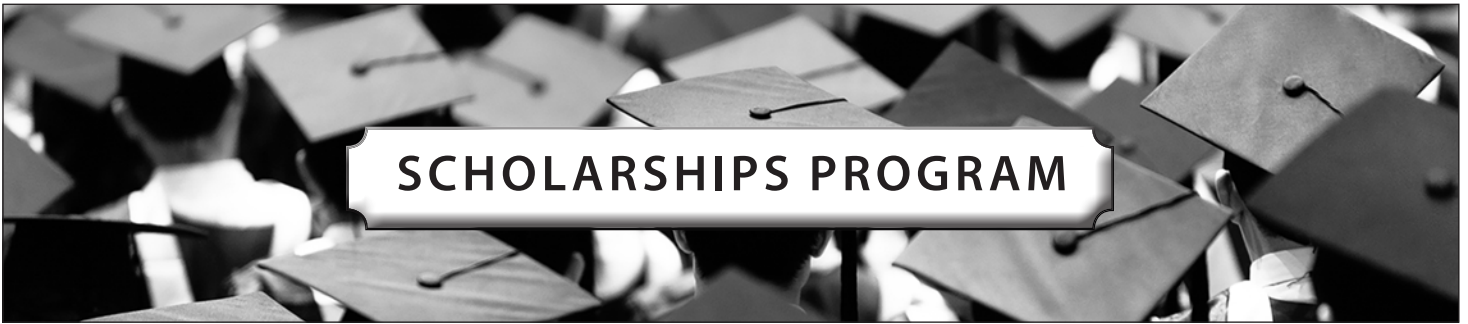
NEW this year for 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art is a requirement that students submit a photo of their art prior to mailing to HQ. Why? Because each year, National sadly receives broken art, and in order to judge students' wonderful work, we need to see what the art was truly meant to look like.

I'd like to focus on the importance of packing this precious cargo. Let's get the word out to students, parents, teachers and others about just how crucial it is to carefully pack these fragile pieces, and all art pieces, as they can get damaged in the mail. The last thing we want is to have to break the news that a beautiful piece was damaged, or worse, destroyed, in transit.

VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

The VFW Auxiliary has long been a supporter of these very worthy scholarships for students in grades 6-12. The VFW Patriot's Pen is a short-written essay for students in Grades 6-8 addressing a theme determined by VFW. The VFW Voice of Democracy is a Grades 9-12 vocal recording of a written essay. Please consult the VFW National website for additional information and aids.





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 one applicant in each of the four conferences. Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the awardee's choice. Applications are in MALTA Member Resources under the Scholarships tab.

To donate to the Continuing Education Fund
Log in to MALTA. Click on "Make a Gift."
Select Continuing Education or mail checks to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Continuing Education Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

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 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 the same previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships: Young American Creative Patriotic Art

First Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$15,000

Second Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$7,500

Third Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$3,500

Fourth Place – Sandy Germany Department of Alabama Scholarship
\$1,500

Fifth Place – Evelyn McCune Department of Kansas Scholarship
\$1,500

Sixth Place – M. Blanche Child Development of Kansas Auxiliary 1650 Scholarship
\$1,000

Seventh Place – Jean Hamil Department of Florida Scholarship
\$1,000

Eighth Place – Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary Scholarship
\$500

Ninth Place – Betty Morris Department of Maryland Scholarship
\$500

Tenth Place – Juanita Crowe-Durbino Department of Tennessee Scholarship
\$500

Eleventh Place – Lorraine Frier Department of North Dakota Scholarship
\$500

Twelfth Place – Department of Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary Scholarship
\$500

Thirteenth Place – Rosemary Mazer Department of New Jersey Scholarship
\$500

Fourteen Place – PDP Carol Betro and PNP Sandi Kriebel Scholarship
\$500

Fifteenth Place – Department of North Carolina VFW Auxiliary Scholarship
\$500

Sixteenth Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$500

Seventeenth Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$500

Eighteenth Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$500

Nineteenth Place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$500

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships: 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art

First place – Jane Reape Department of New York Scholarship
\$2,500

Second place – VFW Auxiliary National
\$1,500

Third place - VFW Auxiliary National
\$1,000

Fourth place - VFW Auxiliary National
\$500

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

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

VFW Auxiliary Department – April 15

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – May 5

Recognition Is Key

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

Ways to recognize winners:

- Host an awards ceremony.
- Present a certificate and/or gift.
- Present awards at a school assembly.
- Don't forget to recognize the parents and teachers!

VFW Auxiliary Scholarship and Contest Resources

Official forms and contest rules can be found in MALTA Member Resources and on our VFW Auxiliary National website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/>

To support the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarship escrow fund:

Log in to MALTA. Click on "Make a Gift."
Select Patriotic Art or mail checks to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

VFW National Scholarships and Contests

The VFW Auxiliary is proud to be a longtime supporter of the VFW and their scholarships, contest, programs and grants.

- **VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship**
Established in 1947, this VFW audio-essay competition provides students in grades 9-12 with the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay.
- **VFW Patriot's Pen Scholarship**
This VFW essay contest encourages young minds grades 6-8 to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme.
- **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.

VFW Resources

Please see the VFW website for contest themes, official forms, rules and eligibility:
<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education>

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most creative and/or unique 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 creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2026 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, 2026 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 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 increasing donations to the Continuing Education scholarships fund.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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 53.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.