

Scholarships
August Sunflower Express
National Ambassador Tina Hicks
Department Chairman Kim Butcher

National President
Carla Martinez's theme
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"

Department President
Mike McCandless's theme
"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work"

Students will be back in school very soon, so get those applications ready now! I hope to see you in Hays for our Department School of Instruction August 14-16.

Program Goals

- **Student Participation**
- **Recipient Recognition**
- **Community Awareness**
- **Increasing the Fund**

Continuing Education Scholarship

This scholarship is available to Auxiliary members, their spouse and children who have a financial need. Members must have been a member for at least one year to apply. **New** this year, applicants must be at least 21 years of age by February 15, 2024. The scholarship is awarded to one applicant in each of the four Conferences and the **NEW** amount is \$1,250. Completed applications must be received at National VFW Headquarters by February 15, 2024.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

This contest is for our patriotic young artists in grades 9-12. Any student 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. This contest now offers 19 National Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. Art must be on canvas or paper and no smaller than 8"X10" and no larger than 18"X24" not including mat. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used. Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white and the back needs to be reinforced with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may be used. No digital photography is allowed. Student submission date is March 31, 2024 to a local Auxiliary. Please see application for more details.

Three – Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

Students may use paper, paper mache, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc. Art **may not** be larger than 18" in any direction, weigh no more than 5lbs. or be jewelry. **NEW** this year four (4) National Scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$2,500. Student submission date is March 31, 2024. Please see application for more details.

Kansas VFW Endowment

This is open to any student that has a parent or grandparent who is a VFW or Auxiliary member of Kansas. Applicant must be a graduating senior in May 2024, already enrolled in college or someone who desires a career change later in life. Completed application will need to be turned into the VFW for verification of eligibility of VFW or Auxiliary member. Applications are due to Department of Kansas VFW Headquarters by February 1, 2024. September is Endowment month, so get those thinking caps on and decide on how your Auxiliary can raise funds for our Scholarship!

Patriot's Pen Contest

Theme for 2023-2024 is "How Are You Inspired By America?" Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th grades who are enrolled in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home schooled students also are eligible. Student deadline is Midnight, October 31 to VFW Post.

Voice of Democracy Audio – Essay Contest

Theme for 2023-2024 is "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?" Open to students in grades 9-12 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. Student deadline is Midnight, October 31 to VFW Post.

National Auxiliary Award No. 1

Most outstanding activity and /or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary. Citations will be mailed directly to the participating Auxiliaries from VFW National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

Entry form must be sent to Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2024, I will forward it on to National Scholarships Ambassador Tina Hicks for judging.

Department Awards:

- Best promotion in each membership group of the entire Scholarships Program.
- Citation to each Auxiliary for donating at least \$50 to the following fundraisers:

National Young American Creative Patriotic Art escrow

National Continuing Education escrow

Department of Kansas 3 – D Art escrow

Kansas VFW Endowment

Kim Butcher

Dept. Ks. Scholarships Chairman

316-284-3822



2023-2024 VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship Application

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist VFW Auxiliary members and their immediate family who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. One (1) scholarship will be awarded each year to a selected candidate in each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

The \$1,250 scholarship shall be used in the academic year following completion of the contest. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college/university or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

Eligibility:

- **VFW Auxiliary member** for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The **spouse, son and/or daughter** of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicant must be **21** years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Previous National Continuing Education Scholarship winners are not eligible.

Applicant Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Applicant Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Applicant Phone Number: _____ Applicant email: _____

Relationship to VFW Auxiliary Member: (please circle one) **Self** **Spouse** **Son** **Daughter**

VFW Auxiliary Member Name: _____ Date VFW Auxiliary Member joined: _____

VFW Auxiliary Member I.D. Number: _____ VFW Auxiliary No.: _____

I hereby grant permission to publish my name and photo in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner in one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the applicant listed above.

Applicant Signature: _____ AGE: _____ Date: _____

**On a separate piece of paper, provide typed answers each question listed below.
All questions must be answered for the application to be considered.**

1. What is the name of the college/university or vocational/technical school you plan to attend?
2. Have you been accepted?
3. What is your intended major or course of study?
4. What is the Adjusted Gross Income from the family's Federal Income Tax return for the prior year?
5. How many dependents are in the household?
6. What are your financial reasons for applying for the Continuing Education Scholarship?
7. Have you been awarded Financial Aid from any other sources? Please list/specify.
8. Write a brief essay (no more than 300 words*) describing your commitment to your goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals. *Essays longer than 300 words will not be accepted.

Email to:
info@vfwauxiliary.org with the following subject line:
Continuing Education Scholarship Application

OR mail to:
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111
Attn: Program Awards Administrator

Application due to
VFW Auxiliary
National
Headquarters
By February 15

PATRIOT'S PEN



2023-2024 Theme

“How are you inspired by America?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

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 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the 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 VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by 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 first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2023. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

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 2023-2024 theme is:

“How are you inspired by America?”

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2023.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.1155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2023-2024 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()
Phone Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

()
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays 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 each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be 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 Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

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 has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships 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 Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()
Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

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

Department Chairperson Signature

()
Daytime Phone Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

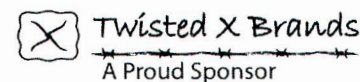
Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

CONTEST ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school 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.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous (two-dimensional) Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are NOT eligible.

CONTEST RULES

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or heavy paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy Paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used, Do not frame art.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with entry.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24," (not including a mat).
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete typed explanation (artist statement) of art (total of 250 words or less) and submit with entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are NOT accepted.

JUDGING

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

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals and persons knowledgeable about art.

VFW AUXILIARY DEADLINES

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. (District judging optional.)
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July/August:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First- through 12th-place winners displayed at National Convention; all Department winners shown on VFW Auxiliary social media.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

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

Students may enter both two-dimensional and three-dimensional contests in the same Program Year but must complete an entry form for each.

FIND THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM AT
vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

STUDENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Auxiliary by March 31.
Entries submitted directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be disqualified.

SPONSORING VFW AUXILIARY CONTACT INFORMATION:



YOUNG AMERICAN *creative* PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST



*Scholarship
contests that recognize
up-and-coming artists
and encourage patriotism in youth.*
vfwauxiliary.org

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

CONTEST ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school 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.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are NOT eligible.

CONTEST RULES

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be three-dimensional.
- Art can be paper, papier mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction.
- Entries may not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with entry.
- Complete typed explanation of the steps taken to create the three-dimensional art entry/artist statement (total of 250 words or less) and submit with entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art, photography, three-dimensional laser-printed art, weapons and jewelry are NOT accepted.

JUDGING

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

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals and persons knowledgeable about art.

VFW AUXILIARY JUDGING AND DEADLINES

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. (District judging optional.)
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July/August:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First- through 4th-place winners displayed at National Convention; all Department winners shown on VFW Auxiliary social media.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500
Second place - \$1,500
Third place - \$1,000
Fourth place - \$500

Students may enter both two-dimensional and three-dimensional contests in the same Program Year but must complete an entry form for each.

FIND THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM AT
vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

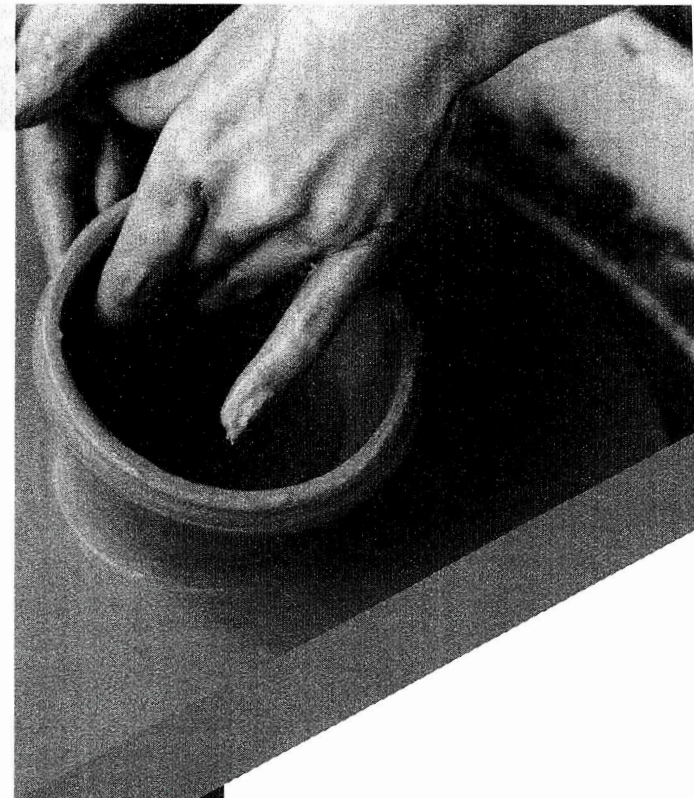
STUDENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Auxiliary by March 31.

Entries submitted directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be disqualified.

3-DIMENSIONAL

SPONSORING VFW AUXILIARY
CONTACT INFORMATION:



3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST



*Scholarship
contests that recognize
up-and-coming artists
and encourage patriotism in youth.*
vfwauxiliary.org



Scholarships

Auxiliary Award No. 1

Entry Form • 2023-2024 Program Year

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary.
 - **Citation** to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary. Citations will be mailed directly to the participating Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
 - **Citation and \$25** to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

Auxiliaries are to send this completed form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2024.

Auxiliary Name: _____ No.: _____

Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event that educated their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary. (E.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

Department Scholarships Chairman: _____ Date: _____
(signature)

April 30, 2024 - The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send the completed Department winning entry form to National Scholarships Ambassador Tina Hicks for judging.

AND

April 30, 2024 - The Department Scholarships Chairman must **email** VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined **list** of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Forms sent directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed.