

Scholarships
October 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"

We have two contests, Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy that have student deadlines of entries to VFW Post by Midnight, October 31, 2023.

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. Essay should be typed in English with no color or graphics and be 300-400 words in length. Essay must be original work and in the students own thinking. The theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. The body must not identify you in anyway.

Awards on all levels (Local, District and State) Each state level winner receives a minimum of \$500 on the National level and the top prize is \$5,000.

Judging Criteria:

- Student must show knowledge of the theme. Have they demonstrated that they have researched the issue? Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points
- Has student answered all facts about the theme as to who, what, where, when and why? Theme development is worth 35 points.
- Has the essay been easy to understand and a clear understanding of the explanation of the theme? Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points.

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. Home schooled students are also eligible. Foreign exchange students, students over 20, previous Voice of Democracy first place Department winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible. Students record their own 3-5 min (+ or – 5 seconds max) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. Recording and typed essay and completed application for judging must be turned in by Midnight, October 31 to VFW Post. Recording must be in the students own voice in English. No music, singing or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way. The recording and typed essay should be labeled to show your name.

Awards on all levels (Local, District and State) Each state level winner receives a minimum of \$1,000 on the National level and the top prize is a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the students American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Judging Criteria:

- Has the student shown imagination and human interest? Originality is worth 30 points.
- Is the content expressed in a good organized manner? Does the theme use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other? Content is worth 35 points.
- Is essay clear and creditable? Delivery is worth 35 points.



Happy Halloween!
Kim_Butcher
Dept. Ks. Scholarships Chairman
316-284-322

