

# SCHOLARSHIPS AT A GLANCE



The VFW Auxiliary is proud to offer and participate in Scholarship contests that help further the education of our nation's youth, our members and their immediate family members.

## VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship

Each year, one (1) recipient will be selected from each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences and will be awarded a **\$2,250** scholarship to be used within 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 upon the completion of the scholarship activation requirements.

### Eligibility:

- VFW Auxiliary member for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The spouse and the adult children of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicants 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.
- Essay must be in applicants' own words, using any generative AI content is prohibited.

**Please see Scholarships in MALTA Member Resources for entry form and official Rules and Eligibility**

## VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Art Scholarship Contests

These two art scholarship contests recognize young artists and encourage patriotism in youth. Entries 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 and total impact of work.

### Eligibility:

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 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 resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

### Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

#### VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$15,000  
Second place - \$7,500  
Third place - \$4,500  
Fourth place - \$4,000  
Fifth place and Sixth place - \$1,500  
Seventh place through Tenth place - \$1,000  
Eleventh place - \$750  
Twelfth place through Twenty-third place - \$500

### 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

#### VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

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

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VFW youth scholarships challenge students to reflect on our nation's history, their ideals and principles, and their own experiences based on a patriotic theme.



## VFW Patriot's Pen® Scholarship

Each year, more than 800,600 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen®** annual youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1 million in local and national awards. Each first place VFW Department (state) winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds 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 chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Students interested in participating must submit their essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed entry form, to their local participating VFW Post. Applications must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

Please see the **Programs** tab on <https://www.vfw.org> or **entry form and official Rules and Eligibility**

## VFW Voice of Democracy® Scholarship

Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy®** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 28,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.6 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. The complete list of other national scholarships ranges up to \$21,000, with the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) winning a scholarship of at least \$1,000.

VFW Department (state) first place winners also receive a trip to participate in Founding Forward's Spirit of America Youth Leadership experience at Valley Forge which is an inspiring four-day program where students experience mock congressional debates, participate in a free enterprise challenge, visit historical sites and engage in interactive educational activities. This immersive experience allows students to develop their critical thinking and leadership skills while understanding their responsibilities as citizens. The trip, awarded to every VFW Department (state) winner, is made possible through the generous support of Twisted X. Students interested in participating must submit their audio essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed entry form to their local participating VFW Post. Students interested in participating must submit their audio essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed entry form to their local participating VFW Post. Essays must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

Please see the **Programs** tab on <https://www.vfw.org> for **entry form and official Rules and Eligibility**