

February 2025 Youth Activities Report

We still have one big event coming up. Illustrating America.

Illustrating America entries are due March 31 to the auxiliaries. Make sure you read the contest eligibility and rules and that all entries comply before submitting them to District or Department. Local Auxiliary and District winners are to be to me by April 15, 2025.

Read all the rules, but I'm mentioning a few to pay particular attention to as these are the items that seem to get overlooked.

- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Other entries if matted must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Mounted and floating mats may also be used. (This is a mat placed on top of the piece of art)
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Students name, grade, and age must be printed on the back of the art piece

Submit the entry with the entry form completed and attached. The top half is to be completed by the entrant and signed. The bottom half is to be completed by the auxiliary and signed. IT MUST BE LEGIBLE!

If you do not judge at the District level, entries may be sent directly to me and in my hands by APRIL 15.

NOTE: I **will not** accept any entries that come to me matted or on heavy paper. Please understand that the art comes to you, then to District, then Department, and then to National. The entries cannot stand being handled that many times without some type of reinforcement.

I **will not** accept any entries that are not signed by the Parent and the VFW Auxiliary Youth Chairman with phone numbers.

Please remember that our auxiliaries are the ones that need to make sure everything is completely filled out. It would be a shame to have a students art piece disqualified because we were not diligent.

For **Patriotism through Literacy** I am challenging each auxiliary to donate at least 1 book this year to a school or library in honor of our veterans.

Youth reading to our Veterans & Veterans reading to our Youth: Choose a book from our reading list, or another of your choice and get a veteran to read it to students or get a student to read to veterans. This program is as simple as that. Donate the book after and

you have fulfilled the Patriotism through Literacy challenge. I am also offering a citation and award at the Department Convention in June.

Citation and award given to each Auxiliary that:

- 1. Promotes Youth reading to Veterans or Veterans reading to Youth.**
- 2. Take photographs of the event.**
- 3. Create a collage ½ of a poster sheet, approximately 14" X 22" o the event.**
- 4. Send a photo of your entry to Youth Activities Department Chairman by March 31, 2025. Including Auxiliary name, number, and District.**
- 5. Take the collage to the Department meeting in June.**

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

Most outstanding activity or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth. Entry form is in your packet and on Malta. It is due to your Department Youth Chairman by March 31, 2025.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries: A collage of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth.

Valentines for Veterans:

Get with you teachers or library to get youth to make Valentines to send to your local or Kansas VA hospitals. Lt's show the Veterans our **LOVE!**

Karen Boden, Youth Activities Chairman