

## Youth Activities

The purpose of the Youth Activities Program is to help youth, individuals and groups, to honor our veterans or to assist our service members and their families. Our Youth Activities Program helps us with ways to do this by having various activities and contests for young Americans to participate in.

**Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue** is a singing contest of The Star- Spangled Banner for youth in grades K-12. There are two Divisions, K-8 and 9-12. The entries are due to the local Auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. Entries are judged on vocal ability, Mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. It is so inspiring to listen to our youth sing the National Anthem. Entry forms and rules are in MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities and contains eligibility requirements, rules, and deadlines.

**Illustrating America** is a drawing contest for youth grades K-8 with three Divisions, K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, not to exceed 15 years of age. The local entries are due to the local Auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique. Entry forms and rules are in MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities and contains eligibility requirements, rules, and deadlines.

**Patriotism through Literacy:** This program supports and promotes reading among youth. You can use this to introduce youth to historical figures and our nation's history while fostering a love of reading. This year I am challenging each auxiliary to donate at least one book to a school or public library. If you go to [ksauxvfw.com](http://ksauxvfw.com) and click on programs, then Youth Activities, you will find a lot of the information I am giving you, plus more. Here you can scroll down to Patriotism Through Literacy Suggested Reading List and find a list of age-appropriate books that are good to donate. Think about going to a school and reading a book about Veterans Day in November and then donating that book. I am challenging each auxiliary to donate at least 1 book this year to a school or library in honor of our veterans. The book should focus on veteran's or our nation's history.

### **Creating, Supporting and Working with Youth Groups:**

This part of the program speaks to the need to help develop our young people to become leaders, acknowledge and identify needs in their community and encourages them to care for those in need. Work with youth to hold an event to benefit other youth in your community. This can be as easy as holding a food drive, a school supply drive, or a holiday youth gift drive. Auxiliaries can help sponsor a group such as Scouts or FBLA to accomplish these activities.

Work with a youth group to visit nursing homes or help a veteran with yard work or putting their trash on the curb each week.

### **R.A.P. Cards**

Our youth love awards for a job well done. Explain to those receiving them that R.A.P. stands for Random Acts of Patriotism. These can be given to any youth showing patriotism. Such as, a child thanking a veteran, or showing respect to our American Flag, or placing their hand over their heart correctly. Go to Malta under Youth Activities to find the template to print out the cards.

### **Citations and Awards:**

There are citations that can be given out to youth throughout the year, awarding them for their efforts and service projects honoring our Veteran. The Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans Citation is a way for auxiliaries to recognize a youth group for their efforts and service projects honoring and assisting our veterans. The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youths for their Patriotism and support of our veterans and their families. Both of these are available on Malta under Youth activities.

### **Youth Group Examples for Sponsorship:**

Youth Sports teams

Youth Church groups

After-school programs

Youth focused organizations

School Clubs

Home-school Associations

Youth community service groups

Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils

Service learning and civic engagement departments in high school and colleges

### **Make Your Auxiliary Accessible to Today's Youth**

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social media as teaching and information tools have natural collaboration elements allowing youth to view and comment on each other's activities. They are Tweeting, posting on Facebook, and subscribing to YouTube. If you do not know what any of this is LEARN.

Remember: Our youth are our future! Auxiliary programs can help young people find a way to serve and help veterans and their families.

## **PROGRAM AWARDS**

### **Awards for Auxiliaries:**

Most outstanding activity or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and using the R.A.P. card.

Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and using the R.A.P. card. Entry form available on Malta.

Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and using the R.A.P. card. The Department chairperson must sign and send the completed entry form to National.