



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Youth:

Now that Thanksgiving has passed it is time to start thinking about Christmas and a New Year! This is a great time of year for our kids and families.... sometimes. Think about how you can support kids in your community through one of the potentially more difficult

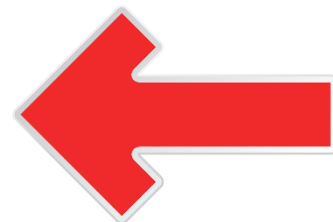


times of the year for them. Your Auxiliary could adopt a family to help with gifts and necessities to get them through. You might host a donation box for Toys for Tots (they're often looking for books – Patriotism through Literacy!), Soldiers Angels, Operation We Are Here, etc. You could volunteer for the Salvation Army or your local soup kitchen. This may connect youth programming to Auxiliary Outreach (don't forget to vote on the hours at your meeting!).

With 2025 around the corner, begin planning what events you can involve youth in. Many older kids will be looking for volunteer hours for the National Jr. Honor Society and National Honor Society. Bring them in to assist with events and when they do, hand out those RAP cards, Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Awards and Patriotic Youth Awards!

Illustrating America:

Remember this is a contest and not a scholarship! It is for kids K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. There are Department Awards for first place in each grade group and National Awards for first place, second place, and third place. As mentioned at Fall Conference, new requirements are that the child's name and grade are to be written on the back of every submission. Submissions without this information will be disqualified. Also, a **CORRECTION**, at Fall Conference I said submissions should go to the District level first and I was incorrect. Please submit your winning submission for each grade range directly to me.



Camp Trotter:

I have received many questions about where to send donations for Camp Trotter. You can go to campsupport.org, click the donate button and submit there OR you can mail a check to Dept of VFW MI, Attn: Camp Trotter, 924 N Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48906. Be sure to note what your donation is for in the memo line of the check. Acceptable memos are "Scholarship Fund", "Life Membership", "Camp Trotter", or "Camper Name." If the

memo line is not used it will go directly to the general fund and be used for general operating expenses.

I have heard some Auxiliaries note that camping fees are getting too expensive for them to sponsor a camper. Remember the guide sheet states to donate to the scholarship fund, but does not say how much. Every little bit helps and you are not being asked to send \$375 if your Auxiliary cannot afford that amount. Other ways to donate include stopping by the Camp Trotter table and purchasing tickets for the raffles at Midwinter Conference and at Convention, helping to find staff for camp next summer, showing up for clean up days, and participating in the annual golf outing next summer!

Another way to donate is to participate when it's your District's turn for "Stuff Your District." Remember we are looking for as many donations as possible, not just one per District. Every Auxiliary could bring something! If you have any questions about what to bring, when to bring it, etc. please don't hesitate to reach out! I am happy to help!

STUFF YOUR DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Districts 5, 8, 11, 14

CONVENTION

Districts 6, 9, 12, 15

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