



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – Dec 2025-Jan 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

National Theme: *From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*
Department Theme: *We Don't Know Them All, But We Own Them All*

Youth:

The holidays are always a time to remember those in need. Think about how our Youth can help serve our communities. My local soup kitchens get a lot of volunteers during the holidays, but after the Season of Giving becomes the New Year, these organizations become desperate for help. Enlist a Scout Troop or other Youth Group to help serve those less fortunate.



So many Auxiliaries have participated in the Patriotism through Literacy Program! Some have donated books and others have donated funds along with the suggested book list. Some Auxiliaries have combined programs, utilizing the book list for their Reading Buddy Programs. Keep up the great work!

Continue to promote the Illustrating America Art Contest. Young artists are everywhere – Homeschool groups, church youth groups, in our neighborhoods, and in our own families.

Not only can you combine different achievements for the Youth/Camp Trotter Program, but you can combine activities across programs. Our National Youth Activities Ambassador encourages us to look for ways Youth can be incorporated in other programs. For example, teach youth how to fold a flag or the meaning of the missing man table and report it under Americanism, too. Have the kids make cards and crafts for those hospitalized or in nursing homes and report it under Hospital. My favorite suggestion is to Host a Buddy Poppy Prince/Princess contest that teaches our youth the history of the Buddy Poppy.



Remember, to keep building those relationships with the families and grow your membership! Also, remember that you should have parental consent for all activities.

Reporting:

Keep reporting! While I want to know all you do, focus on the Achievements and Department Award categories. I enjoy reading each and every report that is submitted! You are amazing! Please remember to include the number of Youth Groups or individual Youth on your report. When in doubt, report it anyway. If you have any questions please call or email me!

Camp Trotter Table Fundraiser:

Districts 8, 9, 10, & 11 should be putting together their baskets for the Mid-Winter Conference. Districts are welcome to donate multiple baskets, and Auxiliaries may donate their own baskets, as well. Due to Charitable Gaming Commission Licensing, we can only sell tickets on the day we draw. Please get your baskets to the Auxiliary Camp Trotter table on Friday morning as our drawing will be held Friday near the end of the day.

Fall Conference – Districts 4, 5, 6, 7

Mid-Winter – Districts 8, 9, 10, 11

Conventions – Districts 12, 13, 14, 15



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is



Maintenance at Camp Trotter is ongoing. New mattresses have been purchased for all the cabins. Please continue your much needed support of our camp!

And, as always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just want to say hi. Also, please note that I have a new address.

Kelly Smyczynski
10032 Fox Run Dr.
Davison, MI 48423
810-441-9996
auxcampchair@gmail.com

