



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities/Camp Trotter Guide Sheet 2025-26

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

PROGRAM GOALS

**Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups - Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citations
Patriotic Youth Award - Patriotism through Literacy - Illustrating America**

Our youth are our future, and it is my privilege to promote this program. Often, the amazing abilities of our youth are overlooked. Most of their lives are still ahead of them and their options are endless. Our program allows us to harness the talents of our youth while educating them about the Constitution, and the sacrifices our veterans continue to make for our freedom, we enable future generations to uphold the ideals of our Nation.

YOUTH

Include the youth in your community in all you do, from serving at post events to pulling weeds at a veteran's home. Everything we do with our youth is a chance to show them what we do – from promoting patriotism to being active in the lives of our veterans. Including youth in Auxiliary events is a great way to draw parents into membership now, while those youth are potential future members. Youth are amazing – they are creative, full of ideas, have endless energy. And they are everywhere! Youth are in school groups, after school groups such as the Boy/Girl Scouts, the youth in your neighborhood and within your own family.

CAMP TROTTER

Unfortunately, there will be no youth camp this year. But the camp will still host the golf outing (June 22, 25) and VTS. Family Day will be August 2nd. **But the camp still needs your help!** There are some larger maintenance projects that need to be completed. Watch your bulletins and the Facebook page for clean-up dates and other camp needs.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

- Best creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.

- Best overall promotion/participation in the Reading Buddy Program. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion/participation in the Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion/participation in the Patriotic Youth Award Program. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion/participation in Patriotism through Literacy. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion/participation in Illustrating America art contest. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion/participation in Camp Trotter program. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

- Illustrating America winner in each grade division (K-2, 3-5, & 6-8) receive \$50

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#1 -10-36	#2 -37-50	#3 -51-68	#4 - 69-84	#5 - 85-98
#6 - 99-115	#7 - 116-139	#8 -140-166	#9 -167-237	#10 -238-OVER

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Number of youth groups your Auxiliary worked with this program year		
Number of youth your Auxiliary worked with during the current program year		
Number of "Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans" citations awarded		
Participated in Patriotism through Literacy		
Number of books donated in participation of Patriotism through Literacy		
Number of youth your Auxiliary worked with as Reading Buddies		
Promote the Illustrating America Art Contest		
Number of students who submitted art entries to your Auxiliary for Illustrating America Art Contest		
Host an award ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in Illustrating America art contest		
Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented for Illustrating America art contest		
Donate to Camp Trotter Scholarship fund		

Purchase a Life Membership to Camp Trotter		
Attend and register at a School of Instruction – District Meeting, Fall Conference or Mid-Winter Conference		
Attend and register at own District Meeting		
Report every quarter		

Kelly Smyczynski
 708 W. 2nd St.
 Davison, MI 48423
 810-441-9996
auxcampchair@gmail.com

