



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – Feb/Mar 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:

Valentine's Day is fast approaching with many Posts/Auxiliaries hosting events. Get your Youth involved! Make them feel like belong by letting them setup, decorate, prep, and serve.

Keep your eyes open for opportunities to award Youth with one of the Citations found on Malta and the Department website. Award the **Youth Acts of Kindness Citation** for Youth that go out of their way to help and be kind. Utilize the **Patriotic Youth Citation** for those who readily demonstrate Patriotism. And don't forget to honor those youth groups who support our Veterans with the **Youth Groups Supporting Veterans Citation**. Let the schools, after school group leaders, church group, and Boy/Girl Scout leaders know you are looking for Youth that go out of their way to serve, help, and be kind to others.

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. Auxiliary deadline is March 31st. District deadline is **BEFORE** April 15th so your entries can get to Department by April 15th, and the National deadline is May 5th.

Keep your **Reading Buddy Program** alive or get one going by partnering with a classroom or school that would like volunteers to do one on one reading with a child. Or invite children to your post and have them practice reading to your Veterans and Auxiliary members. Teach those children about Patriotism by incorporating books from the **Patriotism Through Literacy** book list.

Remember, every way that you interact with the Youth in your community is an opportunity to build relationships with their families and grow your membership! Also, remember that you should have parental consent for all activities, so get those waivers signed!

Keep in mind that the Youth Activities National Program Awards form is due to me by March 31, 2026. So often there are no entries in a category,



so complete the form and send it to me by the deadline. Don't let a category go unawarded!

Reporting:

Keep up the good job 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. Some theme ideas are Sports, Coffee, Games, Camping, and Easter. Use your creativity! All items should be new or like-new. Districts are welcome to donate multiple baskets, and Auxiliaries may donate their own baskets, as well. We will draw half the baskets on Friday and half on Saturday. Please get your baskets to the Auxiliary Camp Trotter table first thing Friday morning.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Mid-Winter – Districts 8, 9, 10, 11
Conventions – Districts 12, 13, 14, 15



Some of our Camp Trotter Board members have been at camp working on maintenance projects. Camp will be open this year. It is the Board's intention to have the applications available at Mid-Winter.

There will be an increase in price to offset the cost of running camp. As generous as our Auxiliaries and Posts are, our donations are not enough to keep the camp out of the red without the price increase.

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.

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