

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW Post & Auxiliary No. _____

For more information, contact:

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MEDIA RELEASE

VFW Post & Auxiliary Announce Kick-Off of Annual Scholarships & Contests for Kindergarten through High School Students

VFW Post & Auxiliary _____ are excited to announce the kick-off of the annual scholarships & contests for kindergarten through high school students who may compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and prize earnings.

High School:

VFW Voice of Democracy - This audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in a patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 9-12 grade students enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program. The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to their American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000 and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Applications must be turned in to VFW Post No. _____ by midnight, Oct. 31, _____. Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements on www.vfw.org.

VFW Auxiliary Young American Patriotic Art Contest - Students submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must have been completed during the current school year. Student entries must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary No. _____ by March 31, _____. Students begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. Department first-place winners compete for their share of \$37,000 in national awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.

VFW Auxiliary 3-Dimensional Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest - Students submit an original three-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must have been completed during the current school year. Students begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. Student entries must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary No. _____ by March 31, _____. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. Department first-place winners compete for their share of \$5,500 in national awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships>.

Grade School:

VFW Patriot's Pen - Students in grades 6-8 may enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level and the national first place winner wins \$5,000. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay based on a patriotic theme. Entrants are due to VFW Post No. _____ by midnight, Oct. 31, _____. Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements on www.vfw.org.

VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America - Students in grades K-8 can participate in this patriotic art contest that encourages students' artistic abilities as they express how they see America through drawings and paintings. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Winners in each division receive VISA gift cards ranging in value from \$25-\$100. Entrants are due to VFW Auxiliary No. _____ by March 31, _____. Find more information at www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities.

About the VFW: *The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans' organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in nearly 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. Learn more at www.vfw.org.*

About the VFW Auxiliary: *The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations. Our members are relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict. We have nearly 470,000 members representing all 50 states, Panama, Guam and the Philippines who volunteer millions of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel, their families and communities. Learn more at www.vfwauxiliary.org.*