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MEDIA RELEASE

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VFW Auxiliary Announces Kick-Off of Annual Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship Contest

VFW Auxiliary **[insert Name/Post Number]** is excited to announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's annual Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Local students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to compete for \$37,000 in national scholarships.

Students must submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Digital art, photography, jewelry and weapons are not accepted. The entry must be completed during the current school year and the entry form must include a parent or guardian's signature.

Students begin by competing for one of the nineteen scholarships at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. Department (state) 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. National first- through twelfth-place winners are featured in *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*, on the VFW Auxiliary website and are displayed at VFW Auxiliary National Convention scheduled to take place **[insert date and location]**.

All Department (state) winning entries are judged at National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.

The VFW Auxiliary started the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest in 1979 to recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth. Approximately 4,000 students participate each year and in addition to \$38,000 in national scholarships, local and state VFW Auxiliaries throughout the nation award more than \$150,000 in Patriotic Art scholarships every year.

Student entries must be submitted to sponsoring participating VFW Auxiliary **[insert Name/Post Number]** by March 31, **[year]**. Interested students, parents and teachers should contact **[insert contact name]** at **[phone number]** or at **[email address]** for more information.

To download an entry form and see the last year's winners, visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships>.

About the VFW Auxiliary: *The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations and our members are the relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict.*

We have nearly 470,000 members representing all 50 states who volunteer millions of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel and their families.

We are a voice for veterans on Capitol Hill and are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. We are one of the top 10 providers of volunteer hours in the VA medical system. Every year, members fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families. We also provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. With more than 3,600 Auxiliaries, there is likely one in your area working to improve the lives of America's uncommon heroes. Learn more at www.vfwauxiliary.org.