

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
YOUTH ACTIVITIES BULLETIN
MAY 2023**

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

Welcome to Youth Activities! Get ready for a jam - packed year of exciting experiences and projects to educate the Youth of our Nation in what Patriotism means and how they can remember and show respect for our Veterans. In the coming months I will highlight the Youth Activity Programs and give suggestions on how to present them. Previews to coming attractions & completing goals include:

- Patriotism through Literacy (“Reading is FUNdamental” and can be an interactive way to learn about our history – search for ways to educate through stories, etc.)
- Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups – engage youth groups in Auxiliary programs and involve service to our Veterans.
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations – award what groups do for our Veterans.
- Giving Patriotic Youth Awards – a way to reward participation and recognize individuals.
- R.A.P. Cards – Random Acts of Patriotism
- “Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue! A singing contest for singing the National Anthem
- Illustrating America – An art contest to build Patriotism for K-8th grade.
- Involving the Youth in ALL VFW Auxiliary Programs – building responsibility in our youth and educating the community on VFW Auxiliary Youth Programs

Camp Trotter: VFW Department of Michigan is still the only state in the nation with their own camp for children 7 through 12. The website for Camp Trotter is:



www.camptrrotter.org It’s located in Newaygo, MI on Bills Lake. The new online registration started in February and can be completed on-line, or you can print the form and paperwork from the site and send it to the VFW Department of Michigan Office 924 N. Washington Ave. Lansing MI

48906. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL REGISTRATION TO THE CAMP.

CAMPER WEEKS are:

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| July 9-15 | July 16-22 |
| July 23-29 | July 30-Aug 5 |
| Aug. 6-12 | COST: \$320 |

FAMILY DAY IS August 19

The 17th Annual Charity Golf outing will take place on June 16th, 2023, at the Village Green Golf Course in Newaygo. If you need more information call Ricky Young (810) 569-2193.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

JUNE 2023

June is the start of warm months and school isn't in session, so how do you reach the Young People in your community? It's the perfect time to visit the library and start a couple of the Youth Activity Goals: *Patriotism through Literacy *Educating the Community on VFW Auxiliary Youth Programs * Distributing R.A.P. cards.

Most libraries have summer programs to keep children occupied, call and see if your auxiliary can be a presenter for a Patriotism program this summer. Ask the Librarian if she will help find books in the library for youth on patriotism – some examples are:

- * America the Beautiful by Cholena Rose Dare (ages 3-6).
- *Fourth of July (Holidays in Rhythm and Rhyme) by Emma Calson Berne (ages 5-7).
- *The Fourth of July Story by Alice Dalgleish (4-8).
- *Fireworks, Picnics, and Flags by James Cross Giblin (10-12).
- *What Does it Mean to be an American by Rana DiOrio (4-8)

I'm sure the library has other books too – ask if you can make a display of them or maybe read a story about Patriotism at “story time” if they have one.

Offer to teach flag etiquette (also includes Americanism chairmanship) at the library or visit a Girl or Boy Scout meeting. County Fairs happen in the summer, ask if you can set up a booth all about patriotism. Hand out information about the upcoming “Illustrating America Art Program” and the “Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue Program”. Have flag coloring sheets available for children to stop by and color and give out flag etiquette sheets. Give out R.A.P. cards if they can say the Pledge of Alliance or have materials for them to make a card for a veteran in the Hospital.

Have a “Summer Fun Day” at the Auxiliary Post Home and have stations to do all the activities in your chairmanship and invite other chairman to join the fun. Play games, have races, treats, and “sneak” a few educational projects in the mix. Invite the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. to participate.

Make plans now for the 4th of July and all the youth-oriented projects you can do with Youth Groups in your area. Involve them in any celebration you are having. Make sure you let the youth and your community know they are an important part of “Banding Together for Our Veterans” because we consider “Our Veterans the Angels Among Us.”

Loyally,

Evelyn Avery, Youth Activities Chairman

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