



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Bulletin June-2026-2027

www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes
Department Theme: Leading With a Patriots Heart

PROGRAM GOALS

Student Participation - Recipient Recognition - Community Awareness - Increasing the Fund

The Scholarship Program encourages patriotism, assists students in attaining an education and helps students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members. The following is a list of the Scholarships available for the 2026-2027 year:

- ❖ 2026-2027 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest – Theme: "What A Veteran Taught Me about America?"
- ❖ 2026-2027 VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest – Theme: "What A Veteran Taught Me about America?"
- ❖ Continuing Education Scholarship
- ❖ Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest
- ❖ 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

To ensure maximum participation and awareness, it is important that scholarship materials are distributed to schools before the end of the current academic year. Although these opportunities apply to the upcoming school year beginning in August, early distribution allows educators adequate time to review the information and incorporate it into their classroom curriculum during the planning process, rather than attempting to add it after schedules have already been established.

To assist with this effort, I have prepared two letters to accompany the scholarship applications—one tailored for the high school level and another for elementary and middle school levels. These letters outline how students may compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and additional prize opportunities.

All forms for each scholarship and contest will be available on the Department website. This includes the judging score sheets, school release forms, award information flyers for each contest, student biographical questionnaires, and promotional materials suitable for social media. Additionally, flyers outlining contest titles and submission deadlines will be provided to support effective communication and outreach.

The first two scholarship contests with upcoming deadlines are the VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest and the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Both submissions must be received by each Auxiliary no later than October 31, 2026, for judging.

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Social Media-WHY WE DO IT

Social media plays a critical role in promoting scholarships and student contests by expanding outreach, increasing visibility, and ensuring that important opportunities reach students, families, and educators in a timely and accessible manner. By utilizing platforms such as Facebook and other digital channels, VFW Post & Auxiliary can effectively announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's annual scholarships and contests for high school students, where participants may compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and prize earnings. Sharing detailed posts, flyers, and reminders online allows schools and communities to stay informed and encourages staff to incorporate these opportunities into their classrooms and extracurricular activities. Through consistent promotion, we can highlight programs such as the Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest, which provides students in grades 9–12 the opportunity to compete for over \$2 million in scholarships nationwide, including a top national award of \$35,000, as well as the Young American Patriotic Art Contest and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest, where students can showcase their creativity for significant scholarship awards at the local, district, state, and national levels. Social media also allows us to emphasize important deadlines, such as October 31, 2026, for the Voice of Democracy submissions and March 31, 2026, for both art contests, ensuring students do not miss these valuable opportunities. By encouraging schools to review, share, and distribute this information to the appropriate staff, and by maintaining an active and engaging online presence, we strengthen communication, increase participation, and create greater awareness of the educational benefits these programs provide. We welcome collaboration with school administrators and staff and encourage anyone with questions to reach out, as we look forward to working together to support student success through these outstanding programs.

I encourage you to download the flyers from the Department program page and post them on your Facebook page for your personal page and your District page and encourage your members to share the information. Remember Home School students can take part in these contests.

Reporting

Accurate and timely reporting is a priority, and I strongly encourage all members to consistently report on their Scholarship activities. Please note that the first quarter ends on July 31. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. If I am unavailable, kindly leave a message, as I work full-time and may not always be able to answer my phone immediately.

It is important to understand that reporting is not solely for award recognition. While awards are certainly a benefit, reporting also plays a critical role in maintaining our organization's nonprofit status. Furthermore, it enables the Department President to accurately complete required year-end reports for National. Your data also contributes to our success at the National Convention, as it allows us to effectively represent our efforts and potentially secure additional funding.

Your cooperation and diligence in reporting are greatly appreciated, as they support both our mission and our organizational responsibilities.

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