

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – June 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

[Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan](#)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

First and foremost, I'd like to take a moment to thank President Jason for allowing me the opportunity to chair the Youth Activities and Camp Trotter program again. I'm looking forward to all the great things we will do this year!

June 2026

I am excited to share updates and important information regarding Youth Activities and the Camp Trotter Program for the current Auxiliary year. Your continued support and participation help create meaningful opportunities for our youth while strengthening connections within our veteran community.

Youth Activities

Please note the updated deadlines for the Illustrating America Art Contest:

- December 15 – Entries due to Auxiliary
- January 15 – Entries due to VFW Department
- January 31 – Entries due to National Headquarters

It is extremely important to note that the current entry form available on the website is NOT the correct form to use for this program year. A revised and updated form will be released soon. Auxiliaries will be notified as soon as it becomes available through both the official bulletin and the VFW Auxiliary Facebook page. Please ensure you are using the correct materials once they are distributed to avoid disqualification.

Although school is currently on break for summer, be ready to reach out to local districts, post in local newspapers, etc. as soon as the school year begins. Remember the age groups for this contest are grades K-2, 3rd-5th grade, and 6-8th grade.

Camp Trotter

This year we will not be hosting a Camp Trotter table at conferences and convention. Instead, we are asking you to donate the money you previously spent on baskets, etc. directly to Camp Trotter. You can do this by sending the check directly to the Department Office, c/o Dept of Mi VFW. The price of camp this year is \$475, but it costs upwards of \$910 per child, let's do our best to help support camp!

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Youth Activities

An addition to the Patriotism through Literacy program this year is the potential to host a lending library.

Creating a lending library hosted by your Auxiliary can be a meaningful way to serve both veterans and the broader community by promoting literacy, connection, and shared resources. Before launching, it's important to realistically assess whether your Auxiliary has the volunteers, space, and long-term commitment needed to maintain it. A lending library requires ongoing organization, regular inventory checks, and upkeep to ensure materials remain accessible and in good condition. Starting small can help establish consistency and build community trust. With proper planning and dedication, a lending library can become a valued and sustainable addition to your auxiliary's outreach efforts. Please be sure to stock your library with books from the list located on the department website.

Note that this lending library is a National and Department award, so be creative! Stand out and help your community notice you!

Camp Trotter

Camp Trotter Family Day on Sunday, August 22, is the perfect opportunity to spend meaningful time with loved ones while enjoying a fun, welcoming atmosphere. You can look forward to a full day of outdoor activities, games, and a shared meal. It's a chance for kids to make new friends, for parents to unwind, and for everyone to create lasting memories. With many exciting updates to the camp, including the addition of a new director, there's never been a better time to come out, experience the improvements, and be part of this special day.

April Lowery
7820 Heritage Drive, Apt 4
Lansing, MI 48917
(707) 495-2195
asmith0725@gmail.com