



**Michigan Department VFW
Auxiliary
Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin -
August/September 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

August 2026

Youth Activities

At the end of this bulletin, you'll find a flyer for Illustrating America. It is also posted on the Facebook page. Work with your Scholarship chairman to include this information when contacting schools, youth groups, etc. School starts this month so it is a great time to start reaching out to get kids involved. If you work with a youth group, or know someone who does, Illustrating America is the perfect contest for them to participate in. It opens the door to begin teaching the young ones about our nation's greatest treasure!

Now is the time to start getting creative! In addition to purchasing books from the Patriotism through Literacy list, you can start brainstorming your community lending library! Start looking for the perfect location! Is it your Post (make sure you ask first!), members front yard, downtown on the square? It may be fun to include youth in voting on a name for your library!

Camp Trotter

The 2026 camp season comes to an end this month. Wish the campers and the staff well as they recover from all the good times that were had over the 5 weeks. Just because the camp season is over, doesn't mean our work here ends. Fundraisers for Camp Trotter are a great way to connect Youth with all of our other programs.

Camp Trotter Family Day is on **Saturday, August 22**. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for more information about the schedule. Having every district represented at this event would be great! Let's welcome Camp Trotter back to action with the best attended family day in years! It's nestled on beautiful Bills Lake so bring your suit and enjoy. There will be opportunities to make donations while onsite that day, so you'll be able to report donating to Camp Trotter.



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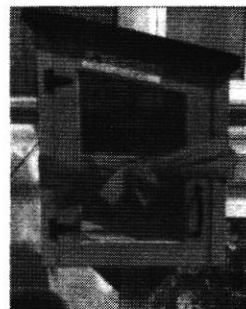
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September 2026

Youth Activities

Have you heard back from anyone about Illustrating America? Are there questions? Have you promoted it enough? You can share the flyer on community Facebook pages, print it and post it around town, leave it everywhere you go! I am looking forward to having so many entries that I just don't know what to do with them!

What did you decide about that lending library? There are so many creative options that you can decorate your library after, Classic Americana (Red, White, and Blue rustic), focus on the Constitution, an Eagle's nest, Fireworks, Lady Liberty, Military Appreciation, etc. You can add some special touches by including a book of the month, adding a guest log, or include a bookmark dispenser! These are just a few ideas to get kiddos excited about reading. Now, how will you announce it to the community?



Camp Trotter

Just because camp is over for this year, remember that donations help provide the supplies, equipment, and experiences that make Camp Trotter unforgettable. Your generosity supports everything from arts and crafts materials, STEM projects, archery equipment, and sports gear to waterfront activity upkeep. Gifts also help keep campfires burning with s'mores, support outdoor adventures, and make special events like themed days, talent shows, and treasure hunts possible.

Donated funds also enrich the heart of camp by supporting community service projects, cabin activities, and opportunities for campers to build friendships, confidence, and new skills. Whether it's creating care packages, writing letters to seniors, exploring the outdoors, or simply sharing meaningful moments with cabin mates, every donation helps provide a safe, engaging, and memorable camp experience for every child.

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ILLUSTRATING AMERICA CONTEST

Calling all young artists! Show your creativity and patriotism by participating in the Illustrating America Art Contest sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary.

WHO CAN ENTER?

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade
3rd Grade – 5 Grade
6th Grade – 8 Grade

AWARDS

Department of Michigan Awards
First Place (each grade): \$50 Gift Card
Second Place: \$50 Gift Card
Third Place: \$25 Gift Card

19 IMPORTANT DEADLINES

December 15 – Entries due to local Auxiliary
January 15 – Entries due to Department
January 31 – Entries due to National