

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – October/November 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

October 2026

Youth Activities

Here comes the best time of the year to involve youth in our events that celebrate our veterans! This month specifically you could host a Halloween party! With Thanksgiving coming up you could host a station where kids fill out thankful for you cards to send to Veterans in your community, at local adult foster cares, or independent living homes. Try to remember our homeless veterans as well. Local homeless shelters often house veterans and you may be able to provide goodie bags to them that kids put together for these holidays. With the winter coming, many people could use heavy socks, hats, scarves, and gloves. Getting a group of kids together to put these bags together and then pass them out is a wonderful way to show our youth how to give back to our veterans and our communities in general.

Just a reminder that Illustrating America art is due back to your auxiliary by December 15. You still have 2 months to promote this contest and inspire a young artist to participate! Who knows what could happen, but you won't know if you don't try.

Just a reminder if you are taking photos of children you plan to share on social media you should be making sure everyone is aware. Put out signs that say photos will be taken and if you DO NOT want your child included, please see (and insert the name of photographer).

Camp Trotter

I bet the fall at Camp Trotter is beautiful! But those leaves are going to fall my friends! Keep and eye out for spring clean up dates so that we can continue to support our camp. Did you know, we are the only state in the COUNTRY to have a camp? How fortunate are we? Let's make sure we continue to support through those donations as well so we can make sure we can allow as many campers attend each summer as possible. Reminder that we are not hosting a Camp Trotter table at conferences/conventions this year, so donate what you would've spent on a basket to that scholarship fund and then REPORT IT!!

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Youth Activities

What was your favorite book when you were a child? Think of all the fond memories you have of reading and finding that book that you could read over and over again. What if your little lending library could help a child find that perfect book for themselves? As I mentioned last month, with all the holidays coming now is the time to involve our youth as much as possible. When you have an event at the post, host a naming poll for your lending library, or a theme contest.

Time is winding down! Have you had any early Illustrating America entries? Do you have a youth group someone in your auxiliary works with? You could host them at your auxiliary to have an art night, provide the supplies, and allow parents to fill out the entry forms before they leave.

Camp Trotter

Camp Trotter is quiet this time of year, but you don't have to be! When you are hosting events at your post, make sure you are telling families about this gem! Have a flyer ready to hand them with information about how to register next summer! Start your scholarship fund as a donation jar at your weekly dinners, start a sponsorship contest by collecting names of kids (with parent permission!) in a jar so you can call them to tell them registration is open and possibly tell them they were drawn for a free week of camp!

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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



IMPORTANT DEADLINES

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