

## & 3-Dimensional PATRIOTIC ART CONTESTS

### COMMON MISTAKES & HELPFUL HINTS

The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest provide an incredible scholarship opportunity for young artists while promoting patriotism throughout schools and home school associations. Follow the advice below to ensure that every student who enters the contest has the best possible chance of realizing his or her dreams.



#### USING THE U.S. FLAG

As a powerful symbol of our country, the U.S. Flag is often used in art entries. It can also be a source of problems for judges and Auxiliary Chairmen. When notifying schools, homeschool associations and students about the contest, give them a copy of the Federal Flag Code and encourage participants to closely examine the U.S. Flag before using it in their art.

- COMMON MISTAKES:**
- Not enough stars or stripes.
  - Stripes in the wrong order or place.
  - The Flag appearing to have someone standing on it, or something written or lying on it.

**HINT:** It is always best to portray the Flag as waving freely.



**TO MAT OR NOT TO MAT?\*** All two-dimensional art (except pieces on a stretcher frame) if matted, must be matted **ONLY IN WHITE**. **The use of a color mat will result in immediate disqualification.** Colored mats can give an entry an unfair advantage by drawing out color or setting off contrast. It is very important that mats **ONLY BE WHITE**. Double mats are accepted if they are **ONLY WHITE**.

\*(Matting only applies to Young American Creative Patriotic Art- two-dimensional - entries.)

#### APPLICATION (One application for each contest)

When a student submits an art entry and contest application, check for the following:

- Legible writing (If you can't decipher the writing, chances are we can't either.)
- Address with city, state and ZIP Code (No P.O. Boxes. We cannot ship art back to a P.O. Box.)
- Phone number with area code.
- Email address.
- Name and signature of or parent or guardian.
- Signature of student.
- Source - this must be completed even if it says "original idea."
- Media used in entry.
- Signature of Auxiliary Chairman and Judge (*Department Chairmen: Do not send the Department-winning entry to National Headquarters without these signatures!*)
- **ARTWORK NOT SPONSORED BY A VFW AUXILIARY WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT BEING JUDGED.**

**TIP:** Students may sign their art, but you may choose to cover the signature for local judging if you are concerned a judge may recognize a student's name.

#### PACKING THE ART

Do not use old, bent or torn cardboard for packaging. If the cardboard can bend, so can the art. Consider insuring the art and getting a delivery confirmation. National Headquarters is not responsible for art lost or damaged during shipment.



Visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships) for contest eligibility requirements, rules and an application.