

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
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PROGRAM GOALS

- **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations**
- **Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups**
- **Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)**
- **Marie Klugow Memorial Scholarship/VFW Auxiliary California**
- **Create a Contest for Students in Grades K-5**

It's time for the VFW Auxiliary Membership to introduce to youth/youth groups why we volunteer and which programs we offer to support all veterans and their families. We have a number of programs that everyone can reach out to volunteer at all ages to make a difference in a veteran's life and there are, Americanism, Hospital, Legislative, Membership, Scholarship, Veterans & Family Services and Youth Activities.

Now is the time to act as our National President Dee Guillory expresses in her theme, "***Catch the Dream for Our Veterans***" and our Department President Eleanor "Ellie" Mello's theme, "***360° For Our Veterans and their Families***" This Youth Activities Program is geared to give youth/youth groups an opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation for our veterans and our freedoms. Thank you veterans for your service to our country!

Wanted: Today's youth/youth groups who want to learn from those who served in one of the military branches for this great nation and the sacrifices that they made for all of us. Learn from those who were there defending our rights and know why it's not just another day off of school/work to observe a Patriotic Holiday.

We need to open our doors to all "Youth/Youth Groups" for them to talk directly to veterans or Auxiliary members who are willing to share their life's experiences waiting for loved ones to come home from service.

1. Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations

Show support by recognizing these proud hard-working young groups that have given their time to go that extra mile to do numerous projects to honor our veterans. For example, visiting and volunteering in a VA facility, marching in patriotic holiday parades, collecting items to send to our troops or helping at the Post serving meals. They need to know that the VFW Auxiliary appreciates the endless hours of volunteering helping veterans and that we are "One Team, One Heartbeat" working together as a team.

Please take the time to apply for this award, plan on attending the schools assembly/ceremony to personally present the National VFW Auxiliary Citation to the "Youth Group" in front of their peers. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations has a Citation Request Form that can be found on the www.vfwauxiliary.org; just login and go under Program & Publicity Resources, Youth Activities.

YOUTH GROUPS

- ❖ After school programs
- ❖ Youth focused organizations
- ❖ School clubs
- ❖ Youth focused organizations
- ❖ Non-profit organization youth advisory councils
- ❖ Service learning and civic engagement departments in high school and colleges, scouts, other youth groups

2. Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

Under the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage youth in any one of our programs. Youth Groups/Parents are looking for a local organization to help complete a school requirement/project such as volunteer hours, special projects or service badges for clubs in a safe environment. Ask members at the next meeting to see who knows of a youth group that can use our help and in turn, we can teach them about the 13 Folds of the American Flag or the Pledge of Alliance or have them write letter/cards to our troops. Ask your VAVS Hospital Representative to help support/sponsor a youth group to volunteer at the local VA/non-VA facilities and don't forget to do a report!

Project Examples

- ❖ Visiting & Volunteering in VA/non-VA facilities
- ❖ Raising funds for a community veterans memorial
- ❖ Marching in patriotic holidays parades
- ❖ Volunteering to help veterans and active-duty military and their families with yard work or household repairs
- ❖ Sending cards or small gifts to the National Home to support families
- ❖ Planning a card and letter writing campaign in local schools to send mail to our troops overseas or our veterans in VA facilities

- ❖ Organizing assembly, collection and delivery of care packages for troops
- ❖ Teaching veterans computer skills

3. **Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)**

For those of us who volunteer at the local schools, involved with the PTA, troop leaders or coach youth sport teams, these items are a must to carry in your bag to promote R.A.P.

- ❖ Encourage and reward patriotism through R.A.P.
- ❖ If a child is seen thanking a veteran, properly placing their hand on their heart during the Pledge of Allegiance or involved in some other activity that promotes patriotism, we suggest giving them a R.A.P. card and or coin.



When you see youth showing patriotism say, "Hey! Nice R.A.P. You have been caught displaying a Random Act of Patriotism." The R.A.P. coins can be purchased at the VFW Store www.vfwstore.org product code #01916 and the R.A.P. cards can be printed off from the VFW National Auxiliary website.

4. **MARIE KLUGOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The **Marie Klugow Memorial Scholarship** was established to encourage the family of our members to attend 4-year colleges.

In addition to a scholarship for a beginning college student and one for a continuing student, a scholarship specific to a new or continuing nursing student was created in response to the shortage of certified nurses in the VA Hospitals. All members of the Auxiliary and/or Post and their children and grandchildren are eligible to apply for these scholarships. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Department of California offers three scholarships:

- ✓ One to a graduating high school senior
- ✓ One to a junior college or continuing university student
- ✓ One to a nursing applicant

Application Criteria/Forms are available at www.vfwauxca.org or by contacting Department Youth Activities Chairman, or by calling the Department office.

5. Create a Contest for Students in Grades K-5

VFW and Auxiliary National Headquarters sponsor contest for students in grades 6-8, 9-12 however there is no national contest for this age group. That's a for students in grades K-5. Perhaps your Auxiliary and/or Department already sponsor a contest for this age group. That's wonderful and I am so happy to hear that! However, if your Auxiliary and/or Department does not currently sponsor a contest for students in Grades K-5 (or even if it does) create one! Contests can be created at both the Auxiliary and Department levels.

- The contest could involve coloring or painting.
Writing an essay or poetry, photography or video, etc.
- You can split the grades as you see fit. For example
Have a winner for grades K-2 and a winner for grades 3-5,
Or one winner for all submissions-it's up to you.

Popular Social Media Networks

Facebook / Twitter / LinkedIn / YouTube / Pinterest / Instagram.

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to youth/youth groups. If you don't know what any of this social media is all about, invite a youth/youth group in for a lesson.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

LEGACY AWARDS

Honors our Past Department Presidents (PDP) to the Auxiliary Chairman in the state, under each category who best promotes the named award in the 2017/2018 Auxiliary years.

- PDP Julie Williamson, Youth Activities Legacy Award
- PDP Jane Maxwell, Youth Supporting Our Veterans Legacy Award.
- PDP Deborah Jacobs, Outstanding Youth Group Legacy Award

DISTRICT AWARDS

- ❖ **\$25.00 to any District Chairman who sponsors and is involved with a Youth Group in the District.**
- ❖ A citation to each District with 100% participation promoting / involved with youth/youth group.
- ❖ Award to the District Chairman who has the best promotional material for a Youth Group in each District.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Special Award: An award to one youth group in each Program division with an outstanding project submitted to the Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citation. Will be mailed to the sponsoring Auxiliary for presentation.

NATIONAL AUXILIARY AWARDS

1. Citation to one Auxiliary in each Department for the best promotion of ways to use and/or reuse R.A.P. cards and/or coins.
2. Citation to each Auxiliary that creates, supports and/or sponsors a youth group. Form required: available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resourses.

Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans Awards

Youth Groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects for our veterans, active-duty military and their families. Citations are available on the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters www.vfwauxiliary.org - click on member login; click Program & Publicity Resources, Youth Activities.

Deadlines: Work must be completed by March 15, 2019 and request submitted to the Department Youth Activities Chairman by April 6, 2019.

("Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Awards")

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT

In all reporting, please describe the project itself and include how much money was spent on the project, as well as the time and mileage of persons who helped. Remember to complete all the information on the back of the report form. There are main categories under Youth Activities. Please indicate the project by number and letter. Example: 8a about Program of This report. Reports for Judging by the Department chairs will be able categorize Auxiliary reports for selection of awards.