

## **Scholarships Program**

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As VFW Auxiliary members, we are honored to make available scholarships to help offset the cost of further education for Auxiliary members, their immediate family and our youth. See that they get every chance available to achieve their dreams and grow their future as tomorrow's leaders.

### **Continuing Education Scholarship**

- This scholarship is available to Auxiliary members, their spouses and children.
- In order to apply, qualifying Auxiliary members must have been members for one year by the application submission.
- Applicants must be in financial need to continue/return to college or vocational/technical/trade schools.
- Must be 21 years of age by February 15, 2024.

The Continuing Education Scholarship is \$1,250 and is awarded to one winner in each of the four Conferences. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

Let's make Auxiliary members aware of the Continuing Education Scholarship on the Department and Auxiliary websites, in newsletters, at post homes, and on social media. Reach out in our communities and inform other Veteran Service Organizations to assist in getting our Continuing Education Scholarship information. Brochures and applications are available at [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/) and in MALTA Member Resources. Let's work to see that National Headquarters receives more than 100 applications to judge.

### **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest has been promoted by the Auxiliary for almost half a century. The Auxiliary is proud to offer this two-dimensional art contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest now offers 19 National Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. All scholarships are paid to the college or vocational/technical/trade schools of winners' choice. Brochures and applications are available at [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest) and in MALTA Member Resources.

### **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art is the Auxiliary's "new kid" in the Scholarships Program. We are proud to offer this contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12. Offering three National Scholarships from \$2,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third place. Paid to the colleges of winner's choice. 3-Dimensional art accepts paper, paper-mâché, fabric,

metalwork, pottery, wood, etc. Brochures and applications are available at: [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/) and in MALTA Member Resources.

As Auxiliary members, we need to circulate information about our two Patriotic Art contest through Auxiliary/Department newsletters, websites, social media, and at Post homes. We need to think outside the box and reach out in our communities. Promote at locations where parents/guardians and grandparents take their children such as the library, sporting complex, bowling alley, skating rink, etc. Our young artists are very talented and imaginative. Let's help them express their feelings of patriotism through art. Help them use their artistic talents to climb to the most amazing future.

### **Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art contest Escrow Fund**

Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art contest escrow funds need more funding so that we may acknowledge and reward more of our young patriotic artists at the National level. We all need to get the word out and work together with our Post, Districts and in our communities to raise funds. Hold fundraisers, distribute collection jars and provide information at various community events, businesses and churches.

### **Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy**

Auxiliaries are here to honor and respect our veterans and service members. One way we do that is by helping promote and participate in rewarding all Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship contest participants. Students from public, parochial and home study programs compete through written and oral essays. Students learn patriotism, to communicate better, to express themselves and to excel, making them strong, confident and ready to be future leaders. Get out and promote these scholarships in your schools and communities and provide all those interested with rules and guidelines. Visit [vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships](http://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships) for more information.

Celebrate and recognize all participants, students, teachers, parents, members and local media who support the Scholarships Program. The VFW store offers certificates and items for awards. Shop the VFW Store online at [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org). Hold events at your Post and invite all those who have helped promote the contests including youth group leaders, community leaders, businesses and teachers. Invite your local media to attend and cover award events. We want everyone to know what scholarships the Auxiliary and the VFW have to offer.

### **Student Participation – Recipient Recognition – Community Awareness – Increasing the Fund**

Each of our scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members.

### **Continuing Education Scholarship**

Open to any Auxiliary member who has been a member for at least a year) their spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 21 years of age, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. **The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2024:**

Program Awards Administrator  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111 or email it to  
info@vfwauxiliary.org

\$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available from Department Scholarship Chairmen or in MALTA Member Resources.

### **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**

Open to any student in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. Citizen.

Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Patriotic Art Contest are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please see the student brochure in MALTA Member Resources for more details on requirements and contest rules.

### **Deadlines for Young American Creative Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art**

#### **Entries must be received by the deadlines below:**

Participating VFW Auxiliary – March 31, 2024

VFW Auxiliary Department - April 15, 2024

(District Judging is OPTIONAL)

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – May 5, 2024

### **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 2-Dimensional Art entries may be:**

- Must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, paster, charcoal, tempera, crayons, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be uses.
- Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.

- Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white.
- Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Mounted and floating mats may also be used.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

#### **National Scholarships: Young American Patriotic Art**

- First Place - \$15,000
- Second Place - \$7,500
- Third Place - \$3,500
- Fourth Place - \$2,500
- Fifth and Sixth Place - \$1,500
- Seventh and Eighth Place - \$1,000
- Ninth through Nineteenth Place - \$500

#### **3- Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest:**

##### Three-dimensional art entries:

- Can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.

##### Art entries may NOT be:

- Larger than 18" in any direction
- More than 5 lbs. in weight
- Jewelry

#### **National Scholarships-3-Dimensional Patriotic Art**

First place - \$2,500

Second place - \$1,000

Third place - \$500

For the above contests, digital art, photography and jewelry are not accepted.

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade School of the winners' choice. Please promote this contest in your area. We have talented and creative artists waiting to be discovered.

Please note that the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is an additional scholarship and separate from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. See the official rules for art forms that are accepted for this contest.

#### **2023-2024 Voice Democracy Audio-Essay Contest:**

Theme: *"What are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy?"*

Open to students in grades 9-12 by the October 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winner, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

**Deadlines:**

1. Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31'
2. Post Judging Complete – November 15
3. Department Judging Complete – January 10
4. Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

**National Awards:**

- First Place - \$35,000 scholarship
- Second Place - \$21,000 scholarship
- Third Place - \$15,000 scholarship
- Fourth through 36<sup>th</sup> Place - \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship
- 37<sup>th</sup> – 53<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$1,000 scholarship

**2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest**

**Theme:** *"How are you inspired by America?"*

Open to students in grades 6-8, by October 31 deadline who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.) One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

**Deadlines:**

1. Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31
2. Post Judging Complete – November 15
3. Department Judging Complete – January 10
4. Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

**National Awards:**

- First Place - \$5,000
- Second Place - \$4,000
- Third Place - \$3,500
- Fourth through 53<sup>th</sup> Place - \$2,750 to \$500

## **Scholarship and Contest Resources**

- Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources:  
VFW website: [VFW.org/community/youth-and-education](http://VFW.org/community/youth-and-education)
- MALTA Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website: [Vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://Vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships)
- Promotions from National Ambassador
- VFW Store: [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) or 1-833-VFW-VETS

## **Get The Word Out!**

The first step is to identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss scholarship opportunities. The following are a few suggestions of groups that might be interested in what you have to say:

- Schools and JROTC Units, Faith-based youth groups, Youth-focused organizations
- Home-school associations, Parent-teacher associations, Youth sports teams
- Financial aid offices, Student veteran centers

## **Scholarships Program Awards**

### **Awards for Auxiliaries**

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary.
- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.

The Department Scholarships Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary.

The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the National Scholarship Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging. (Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention).

### **Awards for Department and Department Chairmen**

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Scholarships Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page XX and for the promotion of the Program Goals listed on Page XX. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

### **Department Legacy Awards**

- A Legacy Award will be awarded to one Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for best Performance in the Scholarships Program.