

Youth Activities Program

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PROGRAM GOALS

Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations * Patriotic Youth Award

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! * Patriotism through Literacy * Illustrating America

Our youth are the future of our country. They need to be aware of the traditions and people who made sacrifices so they may become and do anything they want to do in life. Youth are like sponges and they will learn by listening and watching what we as adults do. By introducing our youth to the traditions and people who have made the USA the country it is today will keep our future in good hands. The following programs will help us teach and support our youth.

Patriotism through Literacy

Reading is one of the easiest ways to evolve our youth in Patriotism. All Children like to be read to or read on their own. Starting at the earliest ages you or any other person can read to our children. There are many books on Patriotism in libraries, book stores or other stores where you can find books with information about the USA from our beginning to the present. They can learn about our traditions and how they began. Books come in many age levels for everyone.

R.A.P. Cards

R.A.P. Stands for "Random Acts of Patriotism. You can give these cards out to any youth showing

- Showing Patriotism
- Thanking A Veteran
- Placing their hand over their heart correctly
- Respecting our American Flag.

You can find the template at vfwauxiliary.org/Resources, Youth Activities.

Creating, Supporting and Working with Youth Groups

Your Auxiliary can support Youth Groups within the community that are service oriented. Examples are Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church youth groups, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and school sponsored clubs

They can work with your Auxiliary activities. Some examples are:

- Helping disabled veterans with shopping, working in their gardens, taking the trash to the curb.
- Visit nursing homes or hospitals.

The students can earn service points from their organizations. Forms at: vfwauxiliary.org/

Resources, Youth Activities.

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue

Calling all singers in grades K-8 and 9-12 to solo sing in the USA National Anthem Contest. Each singer may sing only the original words of our National Anthem in any way they wish, video it and take to a local Auxiliary. They will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. More information and entry forms can be found at: vfwauxiliary.org/Resources-Youth Activities.

Deadlines:

Local Auxiliary: March 31, 2024
Department: April 15, 2024
National: May 5, 2024

Illustrating America

Illustrating America is a program for students in grades K-8. It is divided into three (3) grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. Art must be original. No coloring sheets, digital or photography. Go to schools, churches, scout troops and talk up this contest. Younger children like to draw and rules are simple. Do not forget to get your own children involved!

Deadlines:

Local Auxiliary: March 31, 2024
Department: April 15, 2024
National: May 5, 2024

Forms and rules can be found at: vfwauxiliary.org/Resources-Youth Activities

Marie Klugow Educational Grant

The following Program is a California Program only for Auxiliary members and their families to continue their college education. It offers a \$3000.00 scholarship in three (3) different areas.

- One to a graduating High School Senior
- One to a continuing college student
- One to a student pursuing a nursing or health care career.

Deadline for Marie Klugow Educational Grant is April 15, 2024. Applications and information can be found on vfwauxca.org- resources.

Youth Activities Program Awards

Awards for Auxiliaries

Most outstanding activity/and/or event educating their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.) Entry form required and available in vfwauxiliary.org Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.
- The Department Youth Activities Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at 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 that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)
- The Department Youth Activities Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Youth Activities 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 Departments and Department Chairmen

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Youth Activities Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of Patriotism through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.) 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 at the top of 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 Youth Activities Program.

Web Master Team Coordination

Building on the strong foundation of past Department of California Web teams, this year's team will be working to continue to make our California Auxiliary Website, Facebook, Instagram and other social media pages stronger and to reflect our 2023-24 Department theme and activities.

We are not content providers but rather content posters – please send us your photos, ideas and information about your Auxiliary, District, Program, and Department activities.

If you post Auxiliary activities on your social media pages, please include the hashtag **#StrongerTogether4OurVeterans** or **#VFWAuxCA** so that we will see the posts.

The Web team is working with President Diana Russell-Milton, the line officers, and program chairmen to manage the California message, theme, and to grow our social media interactions.

Auxiliary Social Media Sites Include:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxca>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/vfwauxca/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/vfwauxca>

CA Hashtags: #StrongerTogether4OurVeterans and #VFWAuxCA
National Hashtags: #AuxSWAP and #AuxiliariesinAction

Website: <https://vfwauxca.org>
Email: webmaster.vfwauxca@gmail.com.

The Web team is here to support all of our California members. Please don't hesitate to contact us via email, or if urgent, by phone or text with any questions or concerns you may have. We will be behind the scenes, working with you to be "*Stronger Together for Our Veterans*".

The team consists of:

Lynette Peavey, (831) 801-2730
Sara Jeyes, (858) 220-2670 (text only please)
Maddie Cunningham-Colston, (310) - 387-7906

QR Code will take you
directly to our Department
Website.



You can cut and paste the QR code and use it on all your outreach materials.