

Scholarships Program Promotion #4

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The VFW's **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen** Scholarships are due to Department of California VFW now. Deadline for judging was completed by January 10, 2024 and is due to the VFW National Headquarters by January 15, 2024.

The winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen will be chosen at the VOD Banquet on January 26, 2024 at the Holiday Inn-Downtown, Sacramento, 300 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814,

Keep in mind that the VFW Voice of Democracy Washington D.C. trip is coming up, March 2-6, 2024, and you can watch the "Parade of Winners" LIVE on Monday, March 4, 2024, it is set to start at 6 p.m. EST. Log on to www.vfw.org and watch as your state is represented.

Continuing Education Scholarship entries are due to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by February 15, 2024.

This scholarship is for our VFW Auxiliary members, their spouse and children. What makes a member qualified for this scholarship? A member must be an Auxiliary member for one (1) year by the application submission. Applicants must be in a financial need to continue/return to college or vocational/technical/trade schools and must be at least 21 years of age. This scholarship is worth \$1,250 for each Conference.

Deadline to get the application in to National Headquarters is February 15, 2024. There will be one (1) winner from each of our four (4) Conferences. The winners of the scholarship recipients are notified May 1, 2024.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest deadlines are fast approaching. These are due to the VFW Auxiliaries by March 31, 2024, and then to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2024. These contests are open to any student in grades 9 through 12 by March 31, 2024.

The following is the latest information received from National Headquarters regarding the Patriotic Art Contest

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SEEKS AUXILIARIES TO SPONSOR STUDENTS FOR PATRIOTIC ART CONTESTS

Does your town or area have more Auxiliaries than high schools?

Are you struggling to get entries for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest?

Would your Auxiliary be interested in sponsoring student entries from unaffiliated Posts?

As you may be aware, in recent years the VFW and VFW Auxiliary removed the word "local" from the requirements for scholarship entry, to be replaced with Post-level or Auxiliary-level. This means students do not have to enter through the Post or Auxiliary in the town in which they live, which includes high schoolers who live in Europe and Asia, namely the children of service members stationed abroad.

But what happens when students interested in our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and/or the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest cannot find an Auxiliary through which to enter? Or what if they have a local Auxiliary, but no Department to advance to after winning?

They need sponsors!

If you are not aware but the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is seeking your help. They need Auxiliaries interested in welcoming the work of these talented students for competition. Their intention would be to match students without Auxiliaries to Auxiliaries without students, and also to advance Auxiliary-level winners in unaffiliated areas to Departments in their closest Conferences – for example, connecting American students living in Europe with Eastern Conference Auxiliaries, or connecting American students living in Korea with Western Conference Auxiliaries. (Note: while U.S. citizenship is not required, non-citizens must be Permanent Residents or have applied for Permanent Resident Status and not been denied to become a U.S. citizen.)

Please be aware that any Auxiliary chosen to sponsor students in this manner would be financially responsible for costs, specifically the return mailing of the artwork. You must work with the USPS or another legitimate mail service to do so. The cost may not be insubstantial, especially when overseas shipping larger paintings or 3-dimensional art pieces, which could weigh up to five pounds. Please discuss this as an Auxiliary before offering to sponsor students from unaffiliated areas.

If interested in sponsoring, please email your Department Secretaries with the subject line **Sponsoring YACPAC Students**. If they receive a request from a student that they feel would be a good fit, they will reach out to the Department Secretary directly.

Every eligible student deserves the chance to participate. You can help make that possible today!