

Scholarship Program Mary Yingling

22601 Marlin Pl.
West Hills, CA 91307
maryyingling@yahoo.com

With the soaring cost of higher education and technical schools, VFW Auxiliary is proud to offer scholarship opportunities for Auxiliary members, their immediate families and youth. Education opens doors and creates opportunities. We are investing in our children by investing in their future to assure a brighter tomorrow for us all.

Continuing Education Scholarship

This scholarship is available to Auxiliary members (for at least a year), their spouses and children. This is the only scholarship limited by membership.

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

Spread the word! Put this information on your Post and Auxiliary websites, social media, and newsletters. Often, we forget to get the information to colleges. No one will fill out a scholarship application faster than a college student trying to finish a degree. Visit local colleges and trade schools.

Most will have a designated person who will distribute these applications to their students. Brochures and applications are available at vfwauxillary.org/scholarships/continuing-education and in MALTA under Member Resources. Let's work to flood our National Headquarters with applications!

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (YACPAC)

The VFW 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. Brochures and applications are available in MALTA Member Resources.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art is the Auxiliary's newest contest in the Scholarship Program. We proudly offer this contest to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12, offering four National scholarships: \$2,500 for 1st place, \$1,500 for 2nd place, \$1,000 for 3rd place and \$500 for 4th place paid to the college of winner's choice. 3-Dimensional art accepts paper, paper-mâché, fabric, metalwork, pottery, wood, etc. Brochures and applications are available in MALTA Member Resources.

We can help spread the word by putting this information on your post and Auxiliary websites, social media, and newsletters. Send information to schools, churches, and other youth groups. Where you find kids, you will find participants. Just putting the information out to schools is not enough. Teachers are busy with their prescribed curriculum and do not always have time to dedicate to contests. Idea: Host an art day at your Post and invite your local youth groups. This will take some planning, but what a wonderful, great day of fun and learning you could provide. The earlier we get our youth involved, the better we pave the way for future membership.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund needs your help to reward more of our young patriotic artists at the National level. Consider holding a fundraiser designated for Patriotic Art with your Post and Auxiliary. To donate, log into MALTA, click on "Make a Gift," select Patriotic Art.

Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy

Students from public, parochial, online and home study programs compete through written and oral essays in the VFW's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarship contests. The Patriot's Pen is a short, written essay for scholars in grades 6-8. The Voice of Democracy is a written essay and vocal recording of that essay for scholars in grades 9-12. Celebrate and recognize all participants, students, teachers, parents, and members who support this Scholarship Program.

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. Entrants 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, 2025:**

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111
Or email 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 March 31, 2025 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 (application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen.

Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and techniques. 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:

Participating VFW Auxiliary – March 31, 2025 (District Judging is OPTIONAL)

VFW Auxiliary Department – April 15, 2025

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – May 5, 2025

2-Dimensional entry rules:

- Must be on canvas or heavy paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other medial may be used.
- Must be completed during the current school year.
- Submit canvas entries on stretcher frame or canvas board. If matted, must be matted in white. Do Not Use Color mats.
- Do Not frame art. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted & floating mats may be used.
- Complete & submit contest entry form. Parent or guardian signature required if under the age of 18.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x10" and not larger than 18" x 24" (not including mat).
- Complete typed explanation of art, 250 words or less by the artist.
- If the American flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are NOT accepted.

3-Dimensional entry rules:

- Must be three dimensional.
- Must be completed during the school year.
- May be paper, papier mâché, pottery, fabric, wood, metal, sculpture, etc.
- Typed explanation of steps taken to create art along with 250-words-or-less statement.
- Completed entry form with parent or guardian signature if artist is under the age of 18.
- If American flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code.
- Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction.
- May not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Digital art, photography, 3-D laser printed art, weapons & jewelry NOT accepted.

National Scholarships: Young American Creative Patriotic Art:

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

National Scholarships: 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art:

- First Place - \$2,500
- Second Place - \$1,500
- Third Place - \$1,000
- Fourth Place - \$500

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-D Patriotic Art Contest is an additional scholarship and separate from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. See the official rules for additional details and information for these contests.

2024-2025 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Theme: *"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"*

Open to students in grades 9-12 by October 31st 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 and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous VOD 1st place winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Voice of Democracy Deadlines:

- **Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, Oct 31st**
- **Post Judging Complete – November 15th**
- **Department Judging Complete – January 10th**
- **Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters January 15th**

Voice of Democracy National Awards:

- **1st Place - \$35,000 scholarship**
- **2nd Place - \$21,000 scholarship**
- **3rd Place - \$15,000 scholarship**
- **4th through 36th Place - \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship**
- **37th Place through 53rd Place - \$1,000 scholarship**

2024-2025 VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Theme: *"My Voice in America's Democracy?"*

Open to students in grades 6-8 by October 31st 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 and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous VOD 1st place winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Patriot's Pen Deadlines:

- **Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, Oct 31st**
- **Post Judging Complete – November 15th**
- **Department Judging Complete – January 10th**
- **Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters January 15th**

Patriot's Pen National Awards:

1st Place - \$5,000

2nd Place - \$4,000

3rd Place - \$3,500

4th through 53rd Place - \$2,750 to \$500

Scholarship & Contest Resources

- ❖ Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources:
- ❖ VFW website: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- ❖ MALTA Member Resources
- ❖ VFW Auxiliary National website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
- ❖ Promotions from National Ambassador
- ❖ VFW Store: vfwstore.org or 1-833VFW-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, Scouts, Young Marines.

Scholarship Program Awards

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarships Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen

- \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Scholarships Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
- The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 in the National Program Book and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 46 in the National Program Book.

Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Department Legacy Awards

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

These are the questions you should try to answer when you make your reports about your Auxiliary’s Scholarships projects online. Include sufficient details in your description to help your Department Chairman recognize your accomplishments. Select the appropriate “Activity” when completing your report.

VFW Auxiliary National Year-End Report Worksheet Scholarships 2024-2025

This form is for statistical purposes only.

The Department Chairman must submit this report form to their Department President by May 1.
This report to be processed in MALTA by the Department President by May 10.

Department: _____ Number of participating Auxiliaries: _____

Continuing Education Scholarship Contest

1. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the National Continuing Education Scholarship Contest. _____
2. Number of Auxiliaries that made a monetary donation to the National Continuing Education Scholarship fund. _____

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

1. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. _____
2. Number of students that submitted art entries to Auxiliaries for judging. _____
3. Number of art entries submitted to the Department from Auxiliaries for judging. _____
4. Number of Auxiliaries that made a monetary donation to the National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest fund. _____

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

1. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. _____
2. Number of students that submitted art entries to Auxiliaries for judging. _____
3. Number of art entries submitted to the Department from Auxiliaries for judging. _____
4. Number of Auxiliaries that made a monetary donation to the National 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest fund. _____

VFW Scholarships

1. Number of Auxiliaries that assisted their VFW Post in promoting or conducting the VFW National Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. _____

2. Number of Auxiliaries that assisted their VFW Post in promoting or conducting the VFW National Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest. _____

Recognition

1. Number of Auxiliaries that hosted or co-hosted with their VFW Post an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in any/all contests. _____

2. Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by Auxiliaries, Districts and Department in any/all contests. _____

Department Chairman signature: _____

Date: _____ Conference: _____