

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

JANUARY 2025 PROMOTION

Illustrating America Contest

Currently, we have just a little over two months to follow up with those who we have handed out the **Illustrating America Art Contest** information and applications. It is very important to make sure they are reminded of the deadline to submit entries to your Auxiliary is **March 31, 2025**. They must be given to me by **April 15, 2025**. I need time to have them judged and sent to National Headquarters by **May 5, 2025**. Double check to make sure it is the newly updated application that they are using along with the child's name, age, and grade level must be written on the back of the artwork.

For those who are in the Southern California area, with the fires that are going on and some schools being affected, you might want to make it a priority to follow up with them now and see how they are faring. We sure do not want anyone to be left out or overlooked due to this tragedy. This might be a great opportunity for your Auxiliary to do a community event for the children to spend the morning or afternoon coloring or painting their artwork while enjoying some food. It might help with the trauma that many of them may be feeling due to the uncertainty going on around them.

Marie Klugow Scholarship

The 13-page packet can be found on the VFWA Department website: vfwauxca.org > Members Only > Department Headquarters Information Resources.

Pages 1 and 2 have the four parts of information that you need to know for this scholarship.

- **Part I – Application Criteria**
- **Part 11 – Awards** – gives a great explanation on what it entails and procedures.
- **Part III – Application Procedure** – Deadline for the application to be received in Department. Address to mail the application to. Any questions should be directed to Department headquarters 916 – 509 – 8724 or 916 – 818 – 8585
- **Part IV – Additional Requirements** – Applicants 6 responsibilities to complete the process.

Looking forward to the announcement of the 3 recipients for the year 2025.

Patriotism Through Literacy

Now is the time to contact your schools, libraries, and teachers to set up a read in for veterans to go into the schools to read to the children. **March 2, 2025** is Dr. Seuss Day which falls on a Sunday. Something could be set up at the local library for that day. March 3 could be set up for the schools. Make sure to use a book off the Patriotism Through Literacy list. I have attached a page of pictures of books on the list. These books feature the Native Americans who were a part of American history and instrumental in the creation of our country. Our veterans would be proud to read to the children about the Navajo Code Talkers. The Native American have been very vital in serving and defending our country.

Have your auxiliary purchase books off of the list to present to the teachers for the veterans to read and keep for their class. Maybe do a basket of books for the class. Have your

members purchase a book off the list and bring it to your meeting to make a basket to donate to the class. The more the merrier. If you have duplicate books donated, then make up a basket for your local library.

Awards for Auxiliaries

A reminder of the date to submit your auxiliary application for the Youth Activities Award.

1. Most outstanding activity and / or event of youth reading to veterans and / or veterans reading to youth.
 - Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and / or event of youth reading to veterans and / or veterans reading to youth.

The entry form for this award is attached below and your completed entry should be sent to me by email: grmagaylene1953@sbcglobal.net by March 31, 2025 for judging.

Citations

Remember to use the Award / Recognition Citations listed on Malta under Member – Resources – Youth Activities for Youth groups and Individuals who have shown support, promotion of veterans and their families.

Special Books for Consideration

I have attached information on two books that I think you would enjoy and I feel that one of them should be added to the Patriotism Through Literacy List. I will follow up with National to see if that can happen.

- The Worn-Out Flag – the story unfolds with Miguel and Sam learning the symbolic meaning behind the flag's stars, stripes, and colors while hearing Miguel's father's inspirational journey from Scout to a Marine. The story teaches readers about dignity, respect, and the depth of sacrifice of sacrifice symbolized by the flag.
- The Legend of Bigfoot – by Debbie Saarloos
With vibrant characters and subtle educational elements, the story introduces readers to the Chickasaw language, blending cultural learning with entertainment. Saarloos's whimsical writing captures childhood wonder, while the Bigfoot mystery adds suspense to this engaging tale for children aged 6 to 10.
I highly recommend The Legend of Bigfoot as a must – read for parents seeking an imaginative and educational children's book that celebrates friendship and curiosity.

The Legend of Bigfoot was written by my cousin and is the first book of the series. I hope you will purchase it, enjoy reading it to your family, and leave a review on your thoughts about it.