

Scholarship Program

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As a teacher, I am proud to be the voice that spreads the amazing scholarship opportunities offered by the VFW Auxiliary, supporting all types of learners from hands-on and creative to academic and auditory. These programs honor our veterans by investing in their families and children. This year the Scholarship program is getting a sprinkle of magic with new award opportunities and goals, so make sure even if you think you know this program you read through everything coming out so your auxiliary doesn't miss anything.

This years Program Goals for Scholarship include

- More applications turned in for Scholarships
- Raise funds for Continuing Education Scholarship Escrow Fund
- Promoting in new areas
- 3D- Art Photos and Packaging
- Supporting the Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen VFW Program

Continuing Education

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 applicant must be 21 years of age or older to qualify.

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.

For links to application & information check the Scholarship page of the Department Website www.vfwauxca.org

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (YACPAC)

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest now offers 19 National scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. This two-dimensional creative contest is available to applicants in grades 9-12 and a legal U.S. Resident. Brochures and applications are available in MALTA under Member Resources.

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.

For links to application & information check the Scholarship page of the Department Website www.vfwauxca.org

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

This contest is available to all patriotic young artists in grades 9-12 and a legal U.S. Resident, Four National scholarships are available: \$2,500 for 1st place, \$1,500 for 2nd place, \$1,000 for 3rd place and \$500 for 4th place.

3-Dementional art accepts paper, paper-mâché, fabric, metalwork, pottery, wood, etc. Brochures and applications are available in MALTA under Member Resources.

3-Dimensional entry rules:

*****NEW REQUIREMENT***** Entries must have a photo taken of them before they are mailed and photo must accompany the art piece to National.

- 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.

For links to application & information check the Scholarship page of the Department Website www.vfwauxca.org

Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy

The VFW's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarship contests are VFW scholarship that we as an auxiliary support. 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. Please reach out to your Post for information on the Scholars App and ways your Auxiliary can support this program.

2025-2026 VFW Voice of Democracy

Audio-Essay Contest Theme & Patriot's Pen Written Essay Theme

"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

Continuing Education Scholarship Escrow Fund

National needs our help to build up the funds for the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund so that more scholarships can be awarded in the future. Please consider holding a fundraiser to support this program's goal. To donate, log into MALTA, click on "Make a Gift," select Continuing Education, or mail your check to National earmarked for the Continuing Education Fund. Once you have made your donation, don't forget to write a report!

Unique & Creative Scholarship Event or Activity

*** New this Year***

A New award opportunity is available this year for Auxiliaries who host a unique and creative event or activity that allows them to share and educate the community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. The entry form is required and turned in to the Department Scholarship Chairman by the deadline in March.

For links to application & information check the Scholarship page of the Department Website www.vfwauxca.org

Scholarship Dates to Remember

October 31, 2025- Voice of Democracy/ Patriot Pen Entries Due to Post

February 15th, 2026- Continuing Education Due to National

March 31st, 2026- Y.A.C.P.A & 3D P.A. Entries due to Auxiliary (District voting optional)

March 31st, 2026- Entry form for Unique Scholarship Event due to Department Scholarship Chairman

April 15th, 2026- Y.A.C.P.A & 3D P.A. Entries due to the Department

April 15th, 2026- Reporting Deadline for Department Awards

April 30th, 2026- Unique Scholarship Event Dept Winner due to National

May 5th, 2026- Y.A.C.P.A & 3D P.A. Entries due to National

May 5th, 2026- Awards Deadline for National

Scholarship Program Awards

Awards for Auxiliaries

Most creative and or unique 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, 2026 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, 2026, 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.

Awards for Departments 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 increasing donation the the comunitung education scholarship fund. Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, NV.
2. 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 53 in the National Program Book. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, NV.

Department Legacy Awards

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