

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY**  
**AUXILIARY/POST # [insert Post Number]**

For more information, contact:

**[Contact name]**

**[Contact email address]**

**[Contact phone number]**

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**VFW & Auxiliary Announce Kick-Off of Annual**  
**Scholarships & Contests for Middle & High School Students**

VFW Post & Auxiliary **[insert Name/Post Number]** are excited to announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's annual scholarships & contests for kindergarten through high school students who may compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and prize earnings.

**High School:**

**Voice of Democracy** - This audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in a patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 9-12 grade students enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program. The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to their American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000 and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Applications must be turned in to **[insert Name/Post Number]** by midnight, Oct. 31, **[year]**. Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements on [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

**Young American Patriotic Art Contest** - Students submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must have completed during the current school year. Student entries must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary **[insert Name/Post Number]** by March 31, **[year]**. Students begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. Department first-place winners compete for their share of \$37,000 in national awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships).

**3-Dimensional Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest** - Students submit an original three-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must have completed during the current school year. Students begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. Student entries must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary **[insert Name/Post Number]** by March 31, **[year]**. The first-place winner from each Auxiliary advances to the Department (state) competition. Department first-place winners compete for their share of \$5,500 in national awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships>.

**Grade School:**

**Patriot's Pen** - Students in grades 6-8 may enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level and the national first place winner wins \$5,000. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history,

along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay based on a patriotic theme. Entrants are due to **[insert Name/Post Number]** by midnight, Oct. 31, **[year]**. Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements on [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

**Illustrating America** - Students in grades K-8 can participate in this patriotic art contest that encourages students' artistic abilities as they express how they see America through drawings and paintings. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Winners in each division receive VISA gift cards ranging in value from \$25-\$100. Entrants are due to **[insert Name/Post Number]** by March 31, **[year]**. Find more information at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities).

**About the VFW:** *About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in nearly 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. Learn more at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).*

**About the VFW Auxiliary:** *The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations. Our members are the relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict. We have nearly 470,000 members representing all 50 states, Panama, Guam, France, Thailand and the Philippines who volunteer millions of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel, their families and communities. Learn more at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).*