

SCHOLARSHIP



Dorothy L. Bennett
517 N. Grant Ave
Odessa, TX 797961-5120
432-413-6445
texasveterans@att.net

The auxiliary is proud to make available scholarships to members, students and the community. Families and persons working with students are always looking for monetary means to help further the education of the student. It should be the business of the auxiliary to promote our scholarships programs and place the information into the hands of parents, students, educators and others in the community.

We have four scholarships directly related to the student. These scholarships give young people the opportunity to grow in the love of country and support of veterans. National has not forgotten the members, spouse or children of members who may be in financial need by sponsoring continuing education.

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. The key is PROMOTION, in our schools, neighborhoods, and community.

2023-2024 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

This year's theme is **"What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"**

The VOD contest is open to students in **grades 9-12** 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 resident or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has-not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

- Entries to VFW Post-Midnight - October 31, 2023
- Post Judging complete - November 15, 2023
- District Judging Complete - December 15, 2023
- Department Judging Complete - January 10, 2024

Reminders:

- A Post may submit 1 winner for every 15 entries or partial. (Example: Post has 16 entries - may submit 2 winners to District for judging.
- All entries sent forward to District for judging need to include the following:
- Their entry on a CD or Flash drive.
- A printed copy of speech.
- Completed and signed entry form.
- ***Voice of Democracy participation summary Report*** -VFW Post has this form.
- A head and shoulders photograph.

2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

This year's theme is **"How are you inspired by America?"**

The Patriot's Pen contest is opened to **6-8th grade students** 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 resident or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or over, previous Patriot's Pen first place state winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

- Entries to VFW Post-Midnight - October 31, 2023
- Post Judging complete - November 15, 2023
- District Judging Complete - December 15, 2023
- Department Judging Complete - January 10, 2024

Reminders:

- A Post may submit 1 winner for every 15 entries or partial. (Example: Post has 16 entries - may submit 2 winners to District for judging)
- All entries sent forward to District for judging need to include the following:
- Student's entry form
- Essay between 300-400 words
- Patriot's pen participation summary Report -VFW Post has this form
- A head and shoulders photograph

2023-2024 Continuing Education Scholarship

Members and their immediate family members are struggling to meet the financial needs of college and or technical schools as they work to improve to keep themselves relevant to the changing workforce of today. National has set in place a Continuing Education Scholarship to help improve the lives of our members and family members. The VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters receives less than 100 applications per year for this program. This year we need to up our game and flood them with applications. **In Texas let's try for at least one application from each district.** It is up to us, the members, to share information at our meetings, in our newsletters, e-newsletters, and social media and in the Post homes. This scholarship is open only to VFW Auxiliary Members, their spouses, and their children.

The qualifications are:

- The auxiliary member the applicant is applying under must have been a current Auxiliary member for one year.
- The applicant must be 21 years of age by February 15, 2024
- There must be a financial need.
- Complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less.

The Continuing Education Scholarship award is \$ 1,250.00 with one winner from each of the four (4) Conferences. The money is paid directly to the American college, vocational/technical school of the winner's choice. Previous national winners are not eligible.

The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2024. Application is mailed to the following address:

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111
Or email it to: info@vfwauxiliary.org

vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/ or go to Malta at Program Resources

2023-2024 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3- dimensional Creative

**Patriotic Art Contest
Two-Dimensional Art**

Since, 1979, the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest has promoted patriotism while recognizing young artists in grades 9-12. The contest accepts two-dimensional art on canvas or paper using various media. The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest accepts art using paper, papier-mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc. If the American Flag is in your entry, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code as far as color, number of stars and stripes, and other pertinent rules of the code. This contest is open to students enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school programs. The artist must attend school in the state of the sponsoring auxiliary. Each auxiliary can submit 1 art project for every 3 pieces turned in for both 2- dimensional and 3 - dimensional pieces.

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 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 permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence status (the application for which has not been denied) to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students are ineligible.

Deadlines:

- VFW Auxiliary -Must receive no later than March 31st (District Judging optional)
- Department chairman -Must receive no later than April 15th
- National scholarship chairman -Must receive no later than May 5th

Reminders:

Two-dimensional Art:

- Must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other media may be used.
- Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Other entries must be matted in white.
- Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Mounted and floating mats may also be used.
- The art should be no smaller than 8"x10" but no larger than 18"x24", not including mat.

Three-Dimensional Art:

What are the Scholarship Submission Requirements?

- **Three-dimensional** art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.
- Pieces should be no larger than 18" in any direction.
- Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.
- Complete entry form and submit with entry. Must be signed by Teacher of supervisory adult.
- If American Flag is used must follow Federal Flag Code.
- Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is an additional scholarship and separate from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest:

Reminders:

- Entry must be three dimensional and complete in the current school year.
- Art Entries can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- Art entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction or weigh more than 5lbs.
- Package art so that it can be mailed without being damaged, like your Grandma's China.
- Digital art, photography and jewelry are not accepted.

Hand this information out as soon as possible. A few suggestions of groups that might be interested in the scholarship are schools, JROTC units, faith-based youth groups, youth-focused organizations, home-school associations, parent-teacher associations; youth sports teams, student veteran centers, and social media such as Face book, local newspapers, and radio.

STATEWIDE PROJECT

FUND THE ARTISTS OF TOMORROW: National Patriotic-Art Escrow Fund

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3 -Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest have limited funds to recognize youth that participate in these scholarship contests. We need your help to increase the number of scholarships and the amount of these awards. Hold paint and sip nights, a craft show, host a sewing party to make lap blankets or set up a booth at an auxiliary event and ask for donations. The more we increase the escrow funds, the more youth we can recognize at the national level. Help increase the Young American Creative Patriotic Art awards. Send donation of any amount to add to the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund. The goal is to increase the number and dollar amount of the awards. Send a check to the Department of Texas and earmark it "Patriotic – Art Escrow National" you may also use Malta to “Make a Gift” by selecting Patriotic Art.

AUXILIARY AWARDS

- Plaque to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the BEST STATEWIDE PROJECT. Citation to 2nd and 3rd place.
- Plaque to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the BEST REPORTING. Citation to 2nd and 3rd place.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Most outstanding and/or participation of the "Patriotic 3- Dimensional Art Contest".

- Citation to every Auxiliary that promotes and/or participates in the Patriotic 3-Dimensional Art Contest. Criteria and entry form required is available at: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/new-3-Dimensional-Patriotic-Art-entry-form.pdf>
- **Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 21, 2024. Citation will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.**
- Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four conferences with the most outstanding promotion and/or participation in the Patriotic 3-Dimensional Art Contest. Winners will be announced, and awards presented, at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, KY

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
“Banding Together for Our Veterans”**