

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



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Nelson Mandela once said, “The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow,” which is a known remark that encourages us to believe in our youth. So, how can we encourage our youth? Our Auxiliaries need to volunteer and participate in youth activities. We must include our youth in our auxiliary programs, so that they may continue to learn patriotism, the responsibilities of freedom, respect, selfless service to others and their community, standing up for justice, and taking responsibility for their actions.

There is always room to learn something new and the youth of today are so familiar with technology, especially social media. Ask your young people to help you put a video presentation using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or YouTube. Your message will soon be seen by several youths across your area and has the potential to be shared to reach hundreds, thousands, or maybe even millions.

Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our county, communities, and veterans. Show these youth that we care. Invite a group to participate in some of our auxiliary activities:

- Deliver groceries to a disabled veteran.
- Help a veteran with yard work.
- Take trash out for curbside pickup.
- Visit nursing homes or hospitals.

These activities will not only teach young people to learn about community service, but they may also receive participation hours for badges or other awards from their youth groups.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation

The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is a way to recognize youth groups for honoring our veterans. www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources

Patriotic Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award recognizes an individual youth for their patriotism and support of our veterans, service members and their families. www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources

Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue!

It is so inspiring to listen to our youth sing our national anthem. Our youth will be able to showcase their talent, display their patriotism and express their creativity while singing the National Anthem.

Video of contestants' solo performance singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" must be recorded between July 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. Performance must be saved as a YouTube video. The contest consists of two grade divisions K-8 and 9-12. Contestants may sing a cappella or with music to any genre of their choice but may not change the words. The Department first-place winner from each grade division will be forwarded to the Auxiliary National Headquarters.

- Deadline is Local Auxiliary – March 31.
- Department – April 15
- National Headquarters – May 5.

See www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources/what-we-do/youthactivities for eligibility requirements and contest rules.

Patriotism through Literacy

Introducing historical events through literature is priceless. We need to educate our youth at an early age about who our historical figures were that helped to build this great country, the United States of America. The school libraries are important to every young person including their community library. You can help by volunteering to read or donate books to your local youth facilities. *See the suggested book list, VFW Auxiliary National Program Book, page 62) *

R.A.P. Cards

"RANDOM ACTS OF PATRIOTISM," Our youth love awards a job well done, good grades, showing patriotism, thanking a veteran, placing their hand over the heart correctly, and what better award to receive? None other than your very own VFW Auxiliary R.A.P. card.



for

Illustrating America

Encourage our youth to draw or paint how they are inspired by America. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique. Please see www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities for more details on requirements and contest rules.

- Deadline is Local Auxiliary - March 31.
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STATEWIDE PROJECT

Illustrating America donation to Department of Texas Auxiliary for Patriotic Art Donation (Escrow Fund) earmarked.

AWARDS

1. Plaque to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the **MOST OUTSTANDING PROMOTION OF THE “GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE, & BLUE”**. Citation for 2nd and 3rd.
2. Plaque to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the **MOST OUTSTANDING PROMOTION OF THE “PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY” PROJECT**. Citation for 2nd and 3rd.
3. Plaque in each Membership Division with the **MOST OUTSTANDING PROMOTION OF THE “ILLUSTRATING AMERICA”** art contest. Citation for 2nd and 3rd.
4. Plaque to the Auxiliary who donates the most money to the **PATRIOTIC ART ESCROW FUND**. Citation for 2nd and 3rd.

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