



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### ROBERTA "Bert" CARNLEY

118 Coty Lane  
Graford, Texas 76449  
214-542-1297  
ccarnley2@usa.com

As a VFW Auxiliary member, it is first up to you to see that the Youth of today and tomorrow know what the word Veteran means and how they as a youth can support the Veterans and the programs that we ask them to do. Knowing what you are representing is the most important part for the Youth. If they understand why they are asked to support and take part in, they will do so without hesitation.

During this year you will be ask to make sure that the youth program is supported in each of the VFW Auxiliary Programs. Listed below are just a few of the programs. So, let's all take a look and see what we can do to make sure this is accomplished.

**Illustrating America:** A Patriotic Art-Style contest for students in grades K-2, 3-5 & 6-8. Include Homeschool Students.

**Patriotism Through Literacy:** Encourage youth to learn about America through books, both historical fiction and creative nonfiction. Also, by interviewing and speaking with Veterans.

**Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P) Coins:** Explain to the youth what we mean by Random Act of Patriotism R.A.P. and encourage all Auxiliaries to provide coins to their members to present to the youth when they see an act of patriotism. If a child is seen thanking a veteran, properly placing their hand on their heart during the Pledge of Allegiance or involved in some other activity that promotes patriotism, we suggest giving them a R.A.P. card and/or coin. It's a fun and unique way to engage children elementary age and younger!

#### **Sponsor and Work With Youth Groups Such as:**

- Youth sports teams
- Church youth groups
- After-school programs
- Youth-focused organizations
- School clubs
- Home-school associations
- Youth community service groups (Scouts, etc.)
- CADET/CIVIL AIR PATROL
- JUNIOR ROTC

**Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans:** Approach Youth groups so they can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families. Great traditions and citizenship start at an early age. We recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become a part of their daily lives.

These groups can win a certificate from National if the Auxiliary fills out the citation application and sends it to me and I will forward it to National. Remember, this is for a group not an individual. I would like to see at least one application from every district.

### **Statewide Project - “Youth in all VFW Auxiliary Programs”**

- Include our Youth in supporting our Veterans
- Invite them to take part in Americanism Program
- Take part in Buddy Poppy drives and programs
- Make cards and draw pictures for Hospitalized Veterans
- Helping with their yard work, etc.

### **Resources and available Youth Awards from National:**

- Patriotic Youth Award Option 1 (Fillable)
- Patriotic Youth Award Option 2 (Fillable)
- Patriotic Youth Award Option 3 (Fillable)
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation Application (Fillable) – Updated July 2018
- Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Card (Printable Template – *To print, use Avery 5371 Labels or equivalent.*)
- Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Coin
- 10 Tips for Working with Youth
- Youth Activities Award for Auxiliaries Citation Request Form (Fillable)

### **Awards**

1. Plaque to Auxiliary in each Membership Division for **Most Outstanding Promotion of Patriotism through Literacy**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Plaque to Auxiliary in each Membership Division for **Best Promotion of Illustration America Art Contest**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Plaque to Auxiliary in each Membership Division for **Best Project Including Youth in Statewide Project “Support our Heroes”**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”  
“Soaring Above & Beyond”**