

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM
Barb Sweger, Chairman
Department of IL VFW Auxiliary
Bulletin – March 2023

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH



By Youth for Youth is part of the Youth Activities Program focused on developing young people to become leaders, and to acknowledge and identify needs in their community. The youth in our Veterans' families make sacrifices for this country with some experiencing the ultimate sacrifice when a parent gives all for our freedom. Hold an event or benefit to help the young in your community to assist other youth in need. Project ideas could be to team up with the local high school students to hold a toy collection drive around the holidays to benefit those that

who would not otherwise receive gifts. Work with a local scout troop on a "Back to School" drive to help with all those little items needed for school: Backpacks, Pencils, Crayons, etc. The local schools can help with supply lists for each grade as well as help with distribution to needy children. Food drives are another way to help families in need. All you need to do is assist or support a group of young people who want to give back to their community.

CREATING, SPONSORING, AND WORKING WITH A YOUTH GROUP

Did you know that many youth groups are service oriented? High Schoolers are looking for community service activities in your area to receive school credit and improve their college applications. Involving the youth in Veterans services can also boost your membership to the Auxiliary. Sponsoring a youth group helps your community as well as your Auxiliary. There are citations and patriotic awards for all parts of the program at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources under

"Youth Activities". Please use these resources to recognize our youth and youth groups for what they do for our Veterans and communities.



Don't forget about the Auxiliary Awards:



1. A citation to each Auxiliary that participates in the Youth Activities program by December 31, 2022.
2. A citation to every Auxiliary that has an entry in both the Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue! and the Illustrating America contests.
3. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue! contest. Report must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the promotion, but no later than April 15, 2023.
4. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Illustrating America contest. Report must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the promotion, but no later than April 15, 2023.
5. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Patriotism through Literacy program. Report must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the promotion, but no later than April 15, 2023.
6. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Youth Activities program in the Auxiliary meeting. Reports must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the meeting, but no later than April 15, 2023.