

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-2024

The purpose of this program is to help students with the cost of furthering their education. The VFW Auxiliary sponsors two programs – The Continuing Education Scholarship and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



This scholarship is ONLY available to Auxiliary members, who have been a member for at least one year by the application date of February 15, 2024, and their spouse, son, and daughter. Applicants must have a financial need to continue their education and return to a college or a vocational/technical/trade school.

*****NEW*****

Applicants must be at least 21 years old by February 15, 2024, to apply, and the Scholarship is now \$1250.

There is one scholarship awarded in each of the four conferences and the award will be sent directly to the college or vocational/technical school of the winner's choice.

Contest Promotion – Reach out to all your members to make them aware of this scholarship. Put information in newsletters, talk about it in your meetings, mention it on your social media website, or by word of mouth. The applications are available at:

vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education or in Malta Member resources. National would like over 100 applications to judge next year.

Applications must be completed and received at National by February 15th, 2024.



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Student Participation
- ✓ Recipient Recognition
- ✓ Community Awareness
- ✓ Increasing the Fund

Deadlines

Continuing Education

Entries due to National
February 15, 2024

Young American Creative Patriotic Art

Entries due to Department April
15, 2024

Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen

Entries due to:
Post – October 31st
District – November 15th
Department – December 20th

Applications are to be mailed to:

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO. 64111

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART SCHOLARSHIP



There are 2 types of art in this program: 2-Dimensional Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art.

Both are for students in grades 9-12 enrolled in public, parochial, private, or home-schooled in the U.S., its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. U.S. citizenship is not required, but students must be U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residency with the application not having been denied and the student planning to become a U.S. citizen.

Those **ineligible** are foreign exchange students, National winners in a previous Patriot Art contest, students aged 20 or older, GED, and adult education students.

There is a student brochure in Malta under Member Resources for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Entries are to be judged on Patriotic theme and technique. Each Department will send one winner in each art category to National.

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines:

March 31st – Student entries must be received by a sponsoring VFW Auxiliary

April 15th – One winner from each VFW Auxiliary in each category must be received by the VFW Auxiliary Department Scholarship Chairman.

The Department of Illinois does not have District Judging – every Auxiliary can submit a 1st place 2-D AND a 1st place 3-D entry to the Department Scholarship Chairman.

May 5th – VFW Department winner must be received by VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

July – Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on the entry form.

August – First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention

September – Art will be returned to the address on the entry form.

Scholarship winnings will be paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical, or trade school of the winner's choice.

Please promote this contest in your area. There are many talented and creative artists.

Have an award program for your winners or celebrate and recognize all your participants, teachers, parents, local newspaper or radio station, if available in your area and anyone else that supports our Scholarship program.

Department Awards for each category:

1 st Place	\$500
2 nd Place	\$200
3 rd Place	\$100

Young American Creative Patriotic Art

This part of this scholarship program is almost 50 years old. It is considered the 2-Dimensional art.



Art entries for this contest:

- 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, if matted, 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" x 10", no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

National Scholarship Awards:	First Place - \$15,000
	Second Place - \$7,500
	Third Place - \$3,500
	Fourth Place - \$2,500

Fifth and Sixth Place - \$1,500

Seventh and Eighth Place - \$1,000

Ninth through Nineteenth Place - \$500

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest



The 3-Dimensional art contest is a more recent art contest added to this program. It is an additional scholarship and separate from the 2-D art scholarship.

Entries in this category can be paper, paper-mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.

Entries may NOT be:

- Larger than 18" in any direction
- More than 5 pounds in weight
- Jewelry, digital art, and photography are not accepted

National Scholarship Awards for 3-Dimensional Art are:

First Place - \$2,500

Second Place - \$1,000

Third Place - \$500

National has a Young American Creative Patriotic Art and a 3-Dimensional Art Contest escrow fund. They both need more funding so there can be more winners and can reward more of the young patriotic artists at the National level. Please get the word out and raise funds for these contests.

Donate to these funds by logging into Malta, clicking on "Make a Gift", and selecting "Patriotic Art".

OR

Mail checks earmarked "Patriotic Art" to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO. 64111

Recognize your entrants and winners by having an award program, and presenting a certificate, gift, and/or monetary award. You can also present awards at a school assembly. Have local media attend to take pictures and

feature the winners in the news. You may also want to recognize the parents and teachers.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN



These programs are sponsored by the VFW, and the Auxiliaries assist Posts and Districts with funding and promoting these contests. We help promote and participate in these contests to show honor and respect to the Veterans and service members.

These essays are to help students learn patriotism, communicate and express themselves better, and to excel, making them confident, strong, and ready to be future leaders.

These contests are open to students enrolled in public, parochial, private, or home-schooled in the U.S., its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. U.S. citizenship is not required, but students must be U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence, the application has not been denied and the student plans on becoming a U.S. citizen.

Those **ineligible** are foreign exchange students, National winners in a previous VOD or Patriot's Pen contest, students age 20 or older, GED, and adult education students.

A list of contest rules can be found in the following places:

- VFW Website – vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- Malta Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
- Promotions from National Ambassador

Deadlines: Midnight, October 31st - Entries to VFW Post

November 15th - 1st place Post Entries to District

December 20th - District 1st place entries to Department

January 15th - Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters

Have an award program for your winners or celebrate and recognize all your participants, teachers, parents, local newspaper or radio station if available in your area, and anyone else that supports these Scholarship programs. The VFW Store has certificates and items that can be used for awards – vfwstore.org or call 1-833-VFW-VETS.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO-ESSAY CONTEST

2023-2024 Theme: What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy

This contest is for students in grades 9-12. Those eligible are listed above. Entries are judged by Originality – 30 points, Content – 35 points, and Delivery – 35 points. The essay must be recorded on a flash drive. It should be 3-5 minutes (+ or – 5 seconds max). Students need to submit the recording, typed essay, and a completed entry form by midnight, October 31st.



National Awards:

First Place - \$35,000 scholarship

Second Place - \$21,000 scholarship

Third Place - \$15,000 scholarship

Fourth through 36th place - \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship

37th through 53rd place - \$1,000 scholarship

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

2023-2024 Theme: How Are You Inspired by America

This contest is for students in grades 6-8. Those eligible are listed above. These are judged on Knowledge of the theme – 30 points, Theme development – 35 points, and Clarity of ideas – 35 points.

National Awards:



First Place - \$5,000

Second Place - \$4,000

Third Place - \$3,500

Fourth through 53rd Place - \$2,750 to \$500

CONTEST PROMOTION - For the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contests, Voice of Democracy, and Patriot's Pen, publicize on the radio, in newspapers, on social media, using flyers, and any other way you can think of to spread the information.

Also, contact:

- Schools and JROTC Units
- Church and/or youth groups
- Youth-focused organizations
- Home-school associations
- Parent-teacher associations
- Youth sports teams
- Financial aid offices
- Student Veteran centers

Reporting – Please report as soon as possible. Entries are not needed to report. You can report as soon as you:

- Read about all parts of the program in your meetings
- Put the information out in the community or take the information to the schools
- Hand out copies of the applications to your members or eligible students
- Send out copies of the applications to your members in a newsletter

Our Department President's theme is "**Be A Warrior**". The National President's theme for 2023 - 2024 is "**Banding Together for Our Veterans**". We can be Warriors and Band Together for our Veterans by promoting our programs in our meetings and communities and getting information out about everything the VFW Auxiliary stands for and what we do for our Veterans.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Program Awards

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Auxiliary Awards

1. A citation to each Auxiliary 100% reported in all four parts of the Scholarship Program by December 31, 2023.
2. An award to the Auxiliary with the most outstanding promotion to educate the community about scholarship opportunities in the Auxiliary. Entry form must be received by the Department Scholarship Chairman by March 31, 2024.
3. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of all parts of the Scholarship Program in the Auxiliary meeting. To qualify, the Auxiliary Chairman must submit a report to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2024. Monthly reports are strongly encouraged.

District Awards

1. A citation to each District President and Chairman 100% reported in all parts of the Scholarship Program by December 31, 2023.
2. An award to the District with the best promotion of the Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund. To qualify, the District Chairman must submit a report to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2024. Reporting immediately following District Meetings is strongly encouraged.
3. An award to the District Chairman with the best promotion of all parts of the Scholarship Program. To qualify, the District Chairman must submit a report to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2024. Reporting immediately following District meetings is strongly encouraged. All parts of the Scholarship program must be included in each District meeting report.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Auxiliary Awards

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating the community about scholarship opportunities through the VFW Auxiliary.
 - a. Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member

Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Scholarship Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- b. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating the community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.