

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department North Carolina
Buddy Poppy King and Queen

Buddy Poppy King and Queen Essay Contest

Veterans of Foreign War programs generate public awareness about the VFW, generate local news, and show local veterans that we are a vibrant, active veterans' organization in their community. The VFW Buddy Poppy Program is just one of our many community programs.

For more than 100 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Buddy Poppy Program has raised millions of dollars in support of the veterans' welfare and the well-being of their dependents. The Buddy Poppy King and Queen contest is a long-standing tradition of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of North Carolina and Auxiliary. The effort and importance associated with reviving and continuing this program cannot be understated.

All Posts/Auxiliaries are encouraged to take the time to learn more about the program and create a post Buddy Poppy King and Queen Committee to build enthusiasm for this program. There is a two-fold importance to Buddy Poppy. It's truly all about veterans helping our veterans and living up to our motto of **"Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."**

Each Post and Auxiliary should think about sponsoring a post Buddy Poppy King and Queen Contest. This promotion allows an opportunity to teach our youth about the importance of the Buddy Poppy and helps with public awareness of the VFW Buddy Poppy.

The Buddy Poppy King and Queen Contest is open to all girls and boys between the ages of 9 - 12.

What better way to "Serve from the Heart for Our Veterans" than to participate in a program where the donations received serve one of this country's most noble resources, the millions of men and women who served and fought for our freedom. A Buddy Poppy King and Queen Contest will definitely "Create a Recipe for Success" for your Post/Auxiliary!

For contest information, please see the Rules for the Contestant (2025-2026).

VFW Department of NC, Buddy Poppy Chairperson:

Christopher Brown (1920)
927 Kimberly RD
Burlington, NC 27215
Direct: 919-869-0611
BuddyPoppy@ncvfw.org

VFW Auxiliary Department of NC, Buddy Poppy Chairman/VFW National Home Chairman:

Donna Wright
437 Center Pointe Dr.
Cary, NC 27513
Direct: 919-622-6232
donna1023m@aol.com

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Rules for contest (2025-2026)

1. The contest is open to all boys and girls, ages 9 thru 12 (**by 1 April 2026.**)
2. Each Post and/or Auxiliary's sponsoring a Buddy Poppy Contestant should supply the following information on the application:
 - a. Contestant's full name & age
 - b. Contestant's Parent/Guardian name, address, and phone number.
 - c. Contestant name of school.
 - d. Sponsoring Post/Auxiliary name, number, and contact information.
 - e. District number of the sponsoring Post/Auxiliary.
 - f. Recent photograph of contestant (Put contestants name on the back of photo. Do not attach photos to entries. Photo will be removed prior to judging).
 - g. Contestant's participation in the Buddy Poppy program.
 - h. Contestant's participation in patriotic, and community activities.
 - i. Original Application with signatures.
3. Contestants should be judged on the following:
 - a. Essay Topic
 - b. Penmanship
 - c. Patriotic Activities
 - d. Community Service
4. In the Contestant's own handwriting a detailed essay about, **"Freedom Isn't Free: The Sacrifice Behind the Buddy Poppy" An essay focusing on the lives lost and sacrifices made by service members, symbolized by the Buddy Poppy.**
5. Any use of A.I. assistance in the creation of an essay is **forbidden**.
6. **Post/Auxiliary entries should arrive to the Department Chairperson's by Wednesday, April 1st, 2026.** Entries arriving after that date may not be considered for the competition. Each Post /Auxiliary should have a Buddy Poppy Contestant entry. A boy and/or girl (King and Queen) entry forms' will be judged on the Department level.
7. Department winners of the King/Queen Contest will receive the Title of Buddy Poppy King/Queen, crowns, and a monetary award. This will be presented at the June Convention in June 2026.
8. The Department will furnish one (1) night hotel stay (host hotel) and Three (3) banquet tickets at the June Convention for the Department winners and their Parents/Guardian.
 - a. If the family wishes to purchase additional banquet tickets in advance, for other siblings or family members, they can be pre-paid only in advance through the Department Quartermaster, for \$50 each. (Dept QM Office: 919.828.5058)
9. Winners will be notified by the Department Buddy Poppy Chairperson.

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For Additional information, please contact the following:

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Application 2025-2026

Please Print Clearly

Sponsors Information:

Post Name: _____

Post Number: _____

District: _____

Post/Aux Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Contestants Information:

Full Name: _____

Age: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Name of School Attending: _____

List the Contestants participation in the Buddy Poppy Program (Use Additional Paper if Needed):

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List the Contestants participation in the Patriotic and Community Activities (Use Additional Paper if Needed):

Note: Application must be completely filled out. Must include essay entry and photo. Please see Rules for Contest for essay topic.

Post Commander Name & Signature:

Auxiliary President Name & Signature:

VFW Buddy Poppy Chairman Name & Signature:

VFW AUX Buddy Poppy Chairman Name & Signature: