

How Do I Get My Students Involved?

To encourage as many students as possible to participate, the VFW provides a number of ways to enter:

Direct Student Entry

Students can enter directly by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay and (in the case of the Voice of Democracy, their recording) to a local participating VFW Post. The local VFW Post's number can be obtained at www.vfw.org or by calling the VFW National Programs office during normal business hours at (816) 968-1117. Entry forms and instructions can be obtained by calling the same number or can be downloaded from the VFW national website at www.vfw.org.

Patriotic Project

Teachers and youth leaders may obtain student entry forms in the manner indicated above. You may then select from the following options:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8): 300-400 word essay. Use the competition as a patriotic assignment and encourage the students with the best essays to complete the entry form and forward those, along with the essay, to the local VFW Post competition.

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12): write an essay on the annual theme available online at www.vfw.org or by calling (816) 968-1117. Again, use the competition as an essay contest and encourage the students with the best essays to record their essays, complete the entry form and forward them, with the recording and typed essay, to the local VFW Post competition.

Local VFW Post Information



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW Programs
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 756-3390
E-Mail: kharmer@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

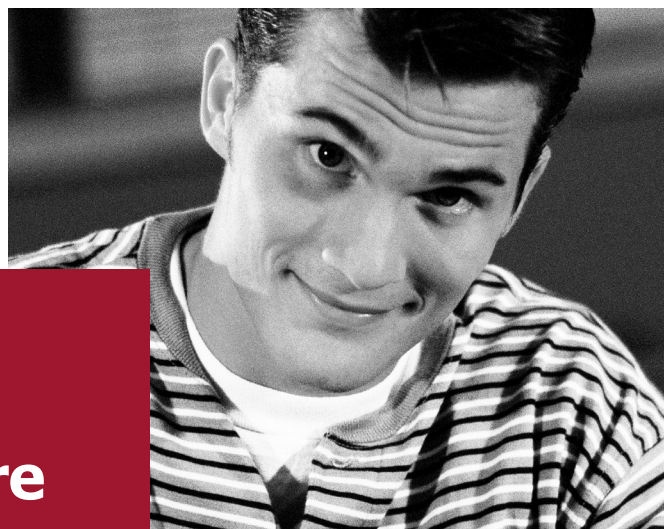


Veterans of Foreign Wars National Scholarship & Award Programs



**Help your
kids get a head
start on their
future.**

Help Your Kids Get a Head Start on Their Future



An Open Letter to Teachers and Youth Leaders:

Thank you for the time, effort and commitment you invest each year in America's young people. Because of you, our nation continues to produce scholars, dreamers and leaders who benefit the entire world. We, the nearly 2 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Ladies Auxiliaries, share your commitment to America's youth. Each year, the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliaries provide millions of dollars worth of awards and college scholarships to students across the U.S. and overseas. The purpose of these awards is to encourage personal growth and foster a greater understanding and appreciation for America, its history and values. This brochure is provided to acquaint you with the VFW's programs that benefit those young lives you touch each day. Again, thank you for all you do. If we can serve you in any way, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jones
Director, VFW Programs
kjones@vfw.org

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen provides 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards can be given at the local, district and state levels. The state winners compete for \$50,000 in awards at the national level. The first place national winner receives a \$5,000 award and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., where they tour the city. **Deadline is Nov. 1.**

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1947. The VFW became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. Many notables have participated in Voice of Democracy including journalist Charles Kuralt, Miss America Anita Bryant and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record an essay on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2 million in college scholarships and incentives. State winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$152,000 in scholarships—first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship. **Deadline is Nov. 1.**

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Program

Each year three exceptional teachers are recognized by the VFW for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (who teach at least half of the school day in a classroom environment and promote America's history, traditions and citizenship education effectively.) The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients are selected from entries submitted to local VFW Posts in every state and overseas.

The awards include the following items:

- A national \$1,000 Past National CIC John Smart award for the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade teachers for professional development expenses.
- \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school.
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school.
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.

Nomination must be submitted to a local VFW Post by February 15. For additional information about our program please refer to our website at www.vfw.org.