

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Shannon Stanley

2025-2026

National Ambassador

Patty Jansky

2025-2026

Wisconsin Chairman



YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

- Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
- Reading Buddies
- Patriotism Through Literacy
- Illustrating America
- R.A.P. Cards
- Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates
- Individual Patriotic Youth Awards
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
- Involving Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs
- VFW Scout of the Year Program





Working with Youth Groups

- Adopt an outside youth group to sponsor or assist this year (sports teams, church and school groups, 4H, Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.)
- Consider theatre groups, robotics/ STEM groups or academic challenge teams – think outside the box.
- Host a Youth Group at a Post or Auxiliary.
- Make sure to check with your Post regarding insurance, sign all proper waivers and keep parents in attendance.



BE A READING BUDDY

- **Auxiliary members can help our youth become better readers.**
- **You can be a Reading Buddy by contacting leaders in your local family readiness groups, schools, libraries or after-school programs.**
- **Have an Auxiliary Reading Buddy event at your Post. (Make sure parents are in attendance due to liability).**
- **Use technology by reading with our children through Zoom, Facetime or Facebook.**
- **Use #auxreadingbuddy to promote your Auxiliary Reading Buddies.**

PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

Why is it important?

- Books teach youth about various times in American history. They promote empathy and expose kids to experiences unlike their own.
- It fosters a love of books that leads to a lifetime of learning.
- Gives us a chance to spend time with kids in our community in new, creative ways.
- Improves grammar, writing skills, focus, concentration, imagination, understanding of others, etc.





PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY RECOMMENDED READING LIST



PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY BOOK LABELS



This book is a gift from In honor of Brenda Bryant 2024-2025 National President Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	This book is a gift from In honor of Brenda Bryant 2024-20245 National President Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
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Illustrating America

- The Illustrating America Contest is an amazing way to get our youth involved with patriotism and to introduce them to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Scholarships for high school students.
- Make sure to follow all rules (matting rule has changed) and deadlines.
- Make sure child's name and information is on the back of artwork.
- Make sure to use the MALTA Member Resources tools.



ILLUSTRATING AMERICA



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest Illustrating America 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this national art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

VFW Auxiliary National Level Awards

Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card	First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card	First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" including mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.

June 2025

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VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest Illustrating America Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type. Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
Media used: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

"I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization. VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of the award."

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
Contact email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.
Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.
Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries in each grade division may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.

June 2025

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ILLUSTRATING AMERICA

NATIONAL AWARDS

Grades K-2

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

Grades 3-5

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

Grades 6-8

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25



WISCONSIN AWARDS

Grades K-2

1st Place: \$75

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

Grades 3-5

1st Place: \$75

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

Grades 6-8

1st Place: \$75

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

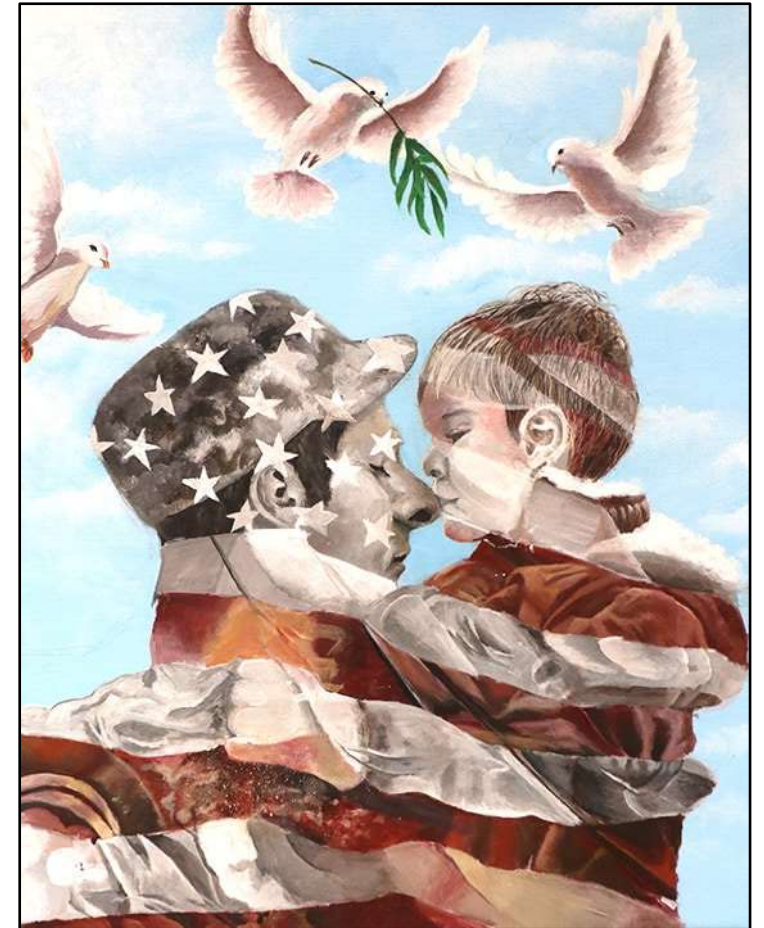
1st Place National Winners 2023-2024



Grades K-2



Grades 3-5



Grades 6-8



THANK YOU

RECOGNIZE AND THANK YOUTH WITH . . .

- *Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Cards*
- *Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates*
- *Individual Patriotic Youth Awards*
- *Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations*

R
A
P
C
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S

- Random Acts of Patriotism Cards
- Available in MALTA Member Resources
- Distribute to youth caught in the act of Patriotism

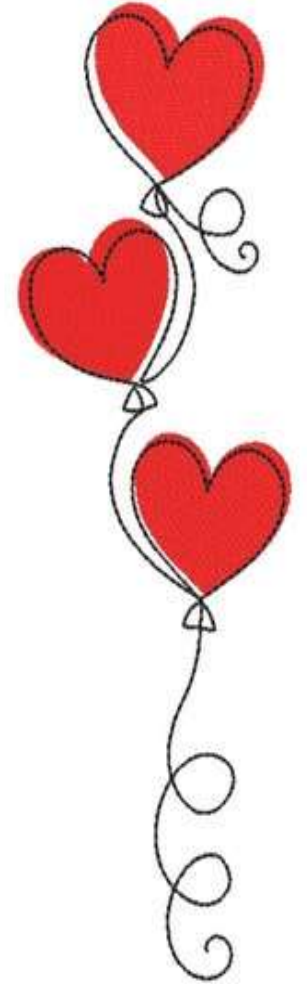
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YOUTH ACTS OF KINDNESS CERTIFICATES

- Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates are available in MALTA Member Resources.
- Distribute to youth who volunteer in nursing homes and help in schools, and to student leaders who make a difference in their communities.



PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARDS

UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AUXILIARY

Patriotic Youth Award

PRESENTED TO

BY

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AUXILIARY

PRESENTED TO

for your exemplary display of patriotism.
Your actions and deeds are appreciated and commended
by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

DATE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AUXILIARY

.....

Patriotic Youth Award

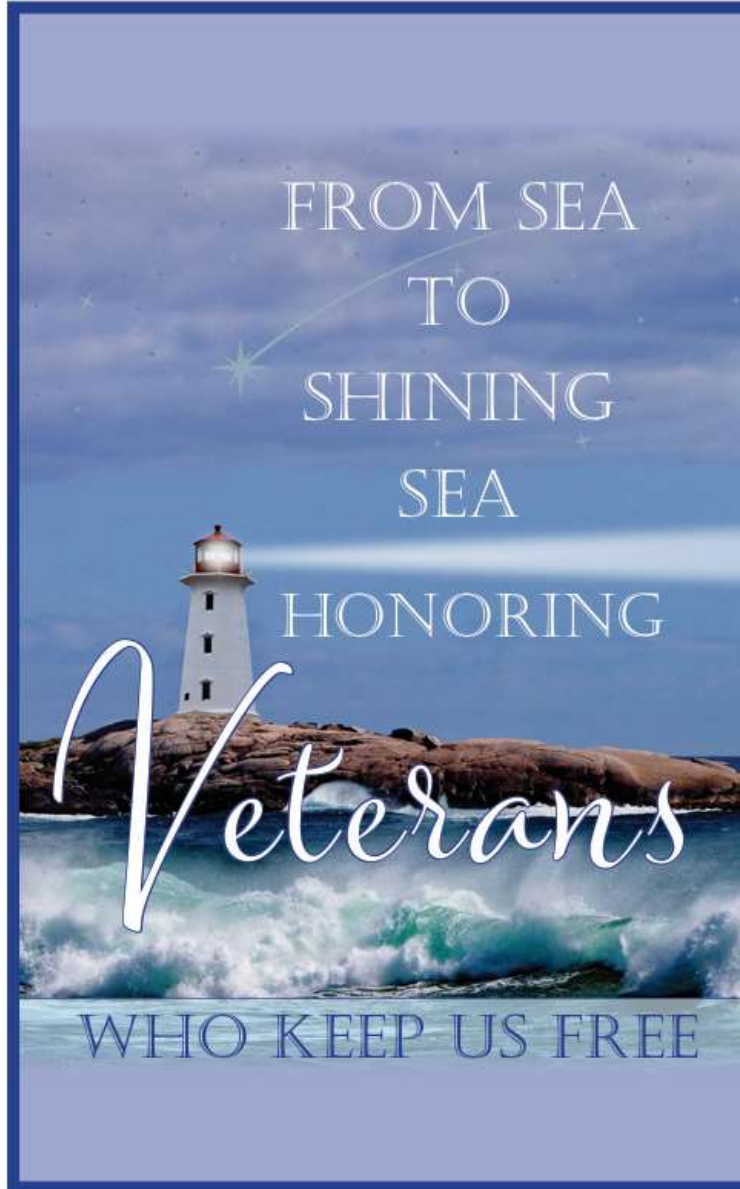
PRESENTED TO

for your exemplary display of patriotism.
Your actions and deeds are appreciated and commended
by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

DATE

**YOUTH
GROUPS
SUPPORTING
OUR
VETERANS
CITATIONS**



Veterans of Foreign Wars of
the United States Auxiliary



Youth Group
Supporting Our Veterans
Presented to



In recognition and appreciation of your
support for our veterans and their families
2025-2026

Lois Callahan

National President

Don P. [Signature]

National Secretary

INVOLVE YOUTH IN ALL AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Teach Youth about Auxiliary efforts to:

- Respect and take pride in our country
- Serve hospitalized veterans
- Elect leaders who appreciate our military
- Pass legislation that secures benefits for our veterans
- And many more!





The VFW Scout of the Year Program recognizes members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for their standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country.

VFW Scout of the Year Program



NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

This year's National Award for Auxiliaries is for the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

- **Entry forms are found on MALTA in the 2025-2026 National Program Book under Youth Activities.**
- **National citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions.**
- **Entry forms are due to WI Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2026.**
- **Give it a try!**



WI YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

- 1. Outstanding Recognition of Youth with “Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans” Citations, Individual “Patriotic Youth Awards”, “Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Cards”, and “Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates – \$5.00**
- 2. Outstanding Participation in the “Illustrating America” Art Contest – \$5.00**
- 3. Outstanding Participation in the “Patriotism through Literacy” Program – \$5.00**
- 4. Outstanding “Reading Buddy” Activity or Event – \$5.00**



**Scan this QR code and it
will take you to the
Youth Activities Program
information on the
Auxiliary website.**

Like seashells, we are beautiful
and unique with a story to tell.

Shannon Stanley
stanleyshannon98@gmail.com
419-961-7900

