

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin

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PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

"A book is a gift you can open again and again." ~ Garrison Keillor



Christmas is right around the corner, and one of the greatest gifts we can give our children are books and the love of reading. Reading improves writing and grammar skills, promotes better concentration, stretches the imagination, and helps boys and girls understand and share the feelings of others. During this holiday season, let's focus on a special Youth Activities Program – **Patriotism Through Literacy**.



Patriotic books introduce youth to our nation's history and the key figures who built our great country while also fostering a love of reading and a lifetime of learning. Where can you find patriotic books? One place to start is the updated **Patriotism through Literacy Recommended Reads List**. This list has great ideas, but you are not limited to these titles. Your Auxiliary can donate books to local libraries, schools, shelters, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. Place a label inside each book that shows it is from your Auxiliary and is in honor of National President Lois Callahan. Both the suggested book list and the labels (sporting a brand new look this year!) can be found on our Wisconsin Auxiliary website or on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

All Booked for Christmas

Besides donating books, your Auxiliary members could volunteer to read patriotic stories to kids, help out in a classroom or library, host a read-a-thon, run a workshop for aspiring young authors, or invite an author of historical books to do a book talk or signing.

READING BUDDIES

As I mentioned above, our Auxiliaries can play a major role in promoting reading among our youth. Hmm . . . where else have we heard that before? Of course, in our new **Be a "Reading Buddy"** Program this year. **Patriotism Through Literacy** goes hand in hand with our **Reading Buddy** initiative. This Christmas season is a perfect time to share the gift of books – both patriotic and otherwise – with our kids. **Merry Christmas!**

