

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

December 2024 / January 2025

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin
Patty Jansky, Chairman / pajansky@charter.net



PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

“The greatest gift is a passion for reading.” – Elizabeth Hardwick, American writer and critic

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 **Patriotism through Literacy Suggested Book List**. Your Auxiliary can donate books to your local library, 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 Brenda Bryant. Both the suggested book list and labels are found on our WI Auxiliary website or on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities. In addition to 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 writer’s workshop for aspiring young authors, or invite an author of historical books to do a book talk or signing.

This year’s **Youth Activities National Program Awards** go hand in hand with Patriotism through Literacy. Awards go out to **the most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth**. A copy of the entry form is included with this bulletin. Host a day of reading between veterans and kids at your local library, school, VFW Post, VA Hospital or Veterans Home. Add a few snacks, amp up the fun, and help build a bond between our veterans and youth!



Youth Activities

National Program Awards 2024-2025 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Youth Activities Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Youth Activities Ambassador Dominique Garcia by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Department Youth Activities Chairman: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.