



VFW AUXILIARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

2024-2025

DOMINIQUE GARCIA

**National Youth
Activities Ambassador**

PATTY JANSKY

**Department of Wisconsin
Youth Activities Chairman**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

- Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
- Individual Patriotic Youth Awards
- Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Cards
- Illustrating America
- Patriotism Through Literacy
- Involving Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs

(The Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! National Anthem Singing Contest will not be offered this year.)



SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

- **Youth Sports Teams**
- **Church Youth Groups**
- **After-School Programs**
- **Youth-Focused Organizations**
(4-H, Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.)
- **School Clubs**
- **Home-School Associations**
- **Youth Community Centers**
- **JROTC**
- **Students needing service hours or letters of recommendation**





RECOGNIZE AND THANK YOUTH WITH...

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



**YOUTH
GROUPS
SUPPORTING
OUR
VETERANS
CITATIONS**

**From Our Roots
to Our Branches**

EXTENDING SERVICE
TO OUR VETERANS



UNWAVERING SUPPORT

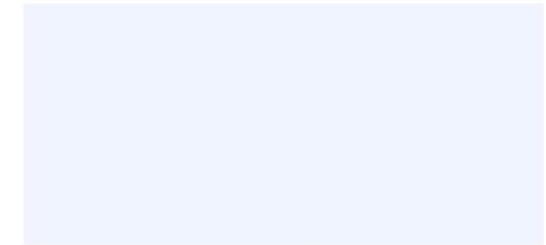


FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

**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.**

2024-2025


National President


National Secretary



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AUXILIARY

Patriotic Youth Award

PRESENTED TO

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

PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARDS

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

R.A.P. CARDS

(Random Act of Patriotism)



NICE R.A.P.!

Random Act of Patriotism



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES
www.vfwauxiliary.org

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest An Art contest for eligible students in grades K-8 2024-2025

The VFW National Auxiliary 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 theme and technique.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades K-8 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study 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 residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 15 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Do not frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", **INCLUDING** mat.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it **DOES NOT** need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or numbers of stars and stripes.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with art entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **NOT** accepted.

Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- April 15:** One winner in each grade division from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.
- May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners in each grade division due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- July/August:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winners in each grade division named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- September:** All art entries will be returned to address on entry form.



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest An art contest for eligible students in grades K-8 2024-2025

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

*I hereby grant permission of the artwork by the student listed above to be published in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner of one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the student listed above.

Parent/Guardian signature: *

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

Sponsoring/Participating VFW Auxiliary Contact or VFW Auxiliary Department Contact information:

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contact email: _____

This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first place winners.
Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be **disqualified**.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

Please check the appropriate grade division.

This first-place entry is for: Grade K-2 _____ OR Grade 3-5 _____ OR Grade 6-8 _____

March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: One winner from each grade division in each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.

Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: Final Level - Department winning entries in each grade division must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or they will be disqualified.

July/August: Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winners in each grade division named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

September: All art will be returned to address on entry form.



ILLUSTRATING AMERICA



National / Wisconsin 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

Illustrating America Patriotic Art Contest

1st Places National Winners 2022-2023



Grades K-2



Grades 3-5



Grades 6-8



**Carter W.
Grade 1**

**Illustrating America
2022-2023
Second Place National Winner
Grades K-2 Division**

**Sponsored by Chippewa
Auxiliary 1038**

How to promote PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY



Volunteer

Volunteer to read a patriotic book at your school or local library.

Donate

Donate historical and patriotic books to area schools, shelters or libraries.

Host

Host a read-a-thon with prizes or run a writer's workshop for young authors.

Invite

Invite an author of historical non-fiction or fiction for a book talk/signing.

BENEFITS OF PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

- **Books teach youth about various American events and people and helps them understand our history better.**
- **Fosters a love of books that leads to a lifetime of learning through reading.**
- **Gives us a chance to spend time with kids in our community in new, creative ways.**
- **Improves grammar, writing skills, focus, concentration, imagination, empathy, etc.**



PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

Suggested Book List

Patriotism Through Literacy

Book Suggestions

Note: grade/age levels are suggested based on publisher's guidelines, school curriculums and reading/comprehension levels, not rules. Interest levels & ability vary by student. Updated: 2022

Pre-K-Kindergarten

John, Paul, George, and Ben by Lane Smith
I Am series (*I Am Abraham Lincoln*, *Rosa Parks*, *Amelia Earhart*, etc.) by Brad Metzger
The White House: A Pop-Up Book of Our Nation's Home by Robert Sabuda
Red, White, and BOOM! by Lee Wardlaw
America the Beautiful by Katharine Lee Bates
God Bless America by Irving Berlin, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
The Scrambled States of America by Laurie Keller
This Land is Your Land by Woodie Guthrie & Kathy Jakobsen
Wow, America! by Robert Neubecker
My Little Golden Book about Kamala Harris by Rajani LaRocca
My Little Golden Book about The White House by Jen Arena
Sesame Street: Elmo Doodle Dandy (A Little Golden Book) by Naomi Kleinberg
Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops by Jill Biden
My Red Balloon & Dandelions by Eve Bunting
Blue Sky, White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus & Kadir Nelson
A is for America: A Patriotic Alphabet Book by Tanya Lee Stone

Grades 1-2

Creative Non-Fiction:

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag by Sarah L. Thomson
What the Big Deal About First Ladies? by Ruby Shamir
Harriet's Ruffled Feathers by Joy McCullough
Turning Pages: My Life Story by Sonia Sotomayor
Rescue & Jessica by Jessica Kensky & Patrick Downes
I Could Do That: How Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote by Linda White
Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson
Tuesday Tucks Me In by Luis Carlos Montalvan
They Called Her Molly Pitcher by Anne Rockwell
Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki
Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport
Ben Franklin: Wit & Wisdom from A-Z by Alan Schroeder

Educational/Americana & Historical Fiction:

Happy Birthday, America by Mary Pope Osborne
Apple Pie 4th of July by Janet S. Wong
If I Were President by Catherine Stier
Tricking the Tallyman by Jacqueline Davis
Ellie May on President's Day by Hillary Homzie
This is a Rope: A Story from the Great Migration by Jacqueline Woodson
The Flag We Love by Pam Munoz Ryan

Grades 3-4

Historical Fiction:

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
I Survived series (*Gettysburg*, *Pearl Harbor*, *D-Day*, *9/11*, etc.) by Lauren Tarshis
American Girl original series & *American Girl History's Mysteries* by various authors
If You Were a Kid During the American Revolution by Will Mara
The Captive by Joyce Hansen
Magic Treehouse Mysteries series by Mary Pope Osborne
Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh by Uma Krishnaswami
Capital Mysteries series by Ron Roy

Creative Non-Fiction:

Magic Treehouse Fact Trackers series by Mary Pope Osborne
A is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American Women by Lynne Cheney
Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz
Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the Fastest Woman... by Kathleen Krull
She Persisted series (*Maya Lin*, *Maria Tallchief*, *Patsy Mink*, etc.) by various authors
A Splash of Red: The Life & Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant
Who Was/What Was series, (*George Washington*, *the White House*, *Sacagawea*, etc.)
Little Legends series by Vashti Harrison
The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and her Tribute to Veterans by Barbara E. Walsh

Educational Americana:

America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven
Our 50 States: A Family Adventure Across America by Lynne Cheney
We the Kids by David Catrow
I Have a Dream by Martin Luther King, Jr., illustrated by Kadir Nelson
We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart by Walter Dean Myers

Grades 5-6

Historical Fiction:

Towers Falling and Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park
Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper
Show Me a Sign by Ann-Clare LeZotte
Red, White & Whole by Rajani LaRocca
My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
Worth by Alexandria LaFaye
The Year of the Boar & Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord
One Crazy Summer trilogy by Rita Williams Garcia
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Nine, Ten, a September 11th Story by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Planet Earth is Blue by Nicole Panteleakos
The True History of Lyndie B. Hawkins by Gail Shephard
Bud, Not Buddy and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Creative Non-Fiction:

Stamped (for Kids) by Sonja Cherry Paul, Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi
Rocket to the Moon by Don Brown
History Smashers series by Kate Messner
It's Up to You, Abe Lincoln by Leila and Tom Hirschfeld

Grades 7-8

Historical Fiction:

Dear America series by various authors
Home is With Our Family by Joyce Hansen
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata
Fever 1793 and *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar
Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly
Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson
Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz
The Notorious Benedict Arnold... by Steve Sheinkin
All the Stars Denied by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Non-Fiction & Memoir:

Amelia Lost: The Life & Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math by Jeannine Atkins
Lifting As We Climb by Evette Dionne
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings by Margarita Engel
Hidden Figures: The American Dream & the Untold Story... by Margot Lee Shetterly
What Was the Continental Congress? and *Clara Barton* by Candice Ransom

Grades 9-12

Historical Fiction:

Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution by Avi
Butterfly Yellow by Thanhha Lai
Girls Like Us by Randi Pink
So Many Beginnings by Bethany Morrow
The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee
We Are Not Free by Traci Chee
The Memory of Things by Gae Polisner
Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malindo Lo
A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tehera Mafi
Fly Girl by Sherri L. Smith

Non-Fiction & Memoir:

Pure Grit: How American WWII Nurses Survived Battle... by Mary Cronk Farrell
Chester Nez: A Navajo Codetalker's Story by Joseph Bruchac
Code Talker Stories by Lauren Tohe
Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom... by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
Loving Vs. Virginia by Patricia Hruby Powell
Stamped by Jason Reynolds
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson
Fly Girls: Forgotten Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII by P. O'Connell Pearson
Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space by Lynn Sherr
Black Birds in the Sky by Brandy Colbert
They Call Us Enemy by George Takei
Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow



PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY BOOK LABELS





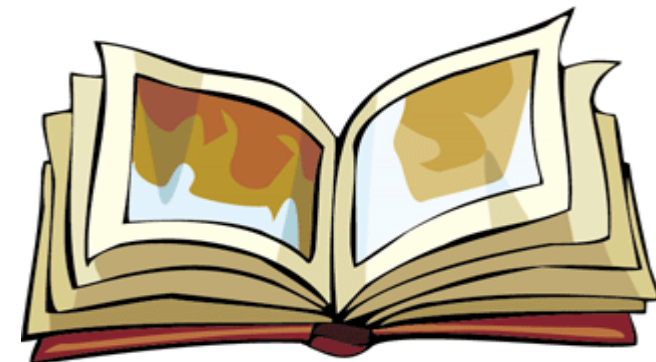
**Patriotism
Through
Literacy
Books
from the
Suggested
Book List**

READING FORGES A BOND BETWEEN VETERANS & CHILDREN

Host a day of reading – Veterans reading to kids or kids reading to veterans. Choose a book from the Patriotism through Literacy List.

You can meet at your:

- **Local Library**
- **Area Schools**
- **VFW Post**
- **VA Hospitals**
- **Veterans Nursing Homes**





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 Americanism Chairman: _____

Signature

Date: _____

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

NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

This year's National Award for Auxiliaries is for the most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth.

- **Entry form due to Department Chairman by March 31, 2025.**
- **Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions.**
- **Your Auxiliary has a great chance of winning.**
- **Give it a try!**

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 worthy efforts!**





Thank You!