



# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2023-2024

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin  
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Our Auxiliary National Program Book states, “The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities and veterans. Today’s youth are the future of our nation.” This year, our National Youth Activities Program is once again offering a variety of opportunities to work with our youth – our leaders of tomorrow.



## CREATING, SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

As part of the Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor and engage youth in any one of our Programs, including activities to honor our veterans or assist our service members and their families. Auxiliaries can work with sports teams, church groups, after-school programs, Scouts, 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, school clubs, home-school associations, youth community service groups and more! Many youth organizations require community service hours – tap into that and encourage these youth to take part in our Auxiliary activities. Involving youth and possibly their whole family in your service to veterans can bring new membership to your Auxiliary. It’s a win-win situation for your Auxiliary, veterans and the community as a whole!

## RECOGNIZING OUR YOUTH

We need to say “Thank You” and “Good Job” to our youth who support veterans or display patriotism. Acknowledging their good deeds will encourage them to do more! Check out these award options that are on our WI VFW Auxiliary webpage under Youth Activities or on MALTA Member Resources:

- **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations**

Youth groups are doing amazing things for veterans and their families. We can ensure that these great projects and activities continue by recognize the whole group with a Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citation.

- **Patriotic Youth Awards**

Do you know an individual boy or girl who displays patriotism and/or supports our veterans, service members and their families? Don’t let this go unnoticed – present them with a Patriotic Youth Award!

- **R.A.P. Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)**

Have you seen a child respecting our flag or thanking a veteran? R.A.P. Cards are a fun and easy way to recognize youth and thank them for their patriotism.



## GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE & BLUE!

Students in grades K-12 can once again enter this contest by singing the “Star Spangled Banner”, our National Anthem. They will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. Youth may sing a cappella or with music and in any arrangement that they choose, but they may **NOT** change the words. They also need to state their name, age and grade before they begin singing. **Remind the students to follow all the rules!** The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each grade division at the Department and National levels. Entries must reach local Auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. Auxiliaries should then send their 1st place winner in each grade division to me by April 15, 2024.

### National Awards

*(in each grade level)*

1st Place: \$500

2nd Place: \$300

3rd Place: \$200

### WI Department Awards

*(in each grade level)*

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25



## ILLUSTRATING AMERICA

Illustrating America is a fun patriotic art contest open to all students in grades K-8. Their artwork will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. Any art media may be used on paper, canvas boards or canvas stretcher frames. Paper entries must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy white paper. **Please remind students to follow all the rules!** There are three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each grade level. Entries are due to Auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. Local Auxiliaries can send their 1st place winner in each grade division to me by April 15th.

### National Awards

*(in each grade level)*

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

### Department Awards

*(in each grade level)*

1st Place: \$80

2nd Place: \$40

3rd Place: \$20



## PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

As our new National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell says, “One of the easiest ways to promote patriotism is through reading among our youth.” This program fosters a lifelong love of reading among our boys and girls and introduces them to historical figures and key national events. Your Auxiliary members could donate or read books at schools or libraries, host a read-a-thon or writer’s workshop, etc. The National VFW Auxiliary will again offer a **Patriotism through Literacy Suggested Book List** that will help you out with this program. Teaching patriotism through literature is a priceless gift to our children and our country.

## NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES



This year’s National Award for Auxiliaries is for the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). Why not give it a try! More information can be found on our WI Auxiliary website or Member Resources.