

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

## Program Goals:

- Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
- Patriotic Youth Award
- Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!
- Patriotism through Literacy
- Illustrating America

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Stand Up, Speak Out"*

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Banding Together For Veterans"*

The VFW Auxiliary is in a very unique position to share our knowledge and help teach our youth of our nation the skills they need to become responsible adults through serving our country, our communities, our veterans and their families. "Our youth are the future of our country", this is more important today than ever before.

### **Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups**

Auxiliaries let's sponsor youth groups and engage youth with our programs. We need to help remind our youth about the history of our country and the men and women who helped mold our country, our veterans.

Students in middle or junior high school need us to continue guiding them to learn about patriotism. This can be accomplished by helping to create and support youth groups within our communities. Activities that assist and work with veterans and their families provide a vital source of community involvement for youth groups. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church youth groups, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and school-sponsored clubs are just a few groups that can benefit from our involvement. Let's start today because we are "Banding Together for Veterans."

### **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations**

Recognize our youth for their hard work and efforts for service projects honoring our veterans and families in the community.

The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations is available in MALTA Member Resources.

### **Patriotic Youth Award**

This award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members and their families. A fillable version of The Patriotic Youth Award is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

### **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!**

It is so inspiring to have the opportunity to hear our youth sing our national anthem. The Auxiliary sponsors a singing contest for youth in grades K-12 that is divided into two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entries will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. The first-place winner from each Department in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary Headquarters. Entry forms in MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities and contains eligibility requirements, contest rules and deadlines.

### **Patriotism through Literacy**

Introducing our youth at an early age to reading will open doors, expanding young minds. Libraries are important to every young person, whether it is their school library or community library. Teaching patriotism through literature is one of the steps toward understanding and learning about patriotism.

### **Illustrating America**

Illustrating America art contest is a wonderful way for our students to promote their creativity through their love of art and patriotism for veterans. The art contest is open for youth in grades K-8 enrolled in public, private or parochial school or a home study program. There are three grade divisions: K-2,

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3-5 and 6-8. For more details on requirements and contest rules, student brochure and entry form, consult MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

### 1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)

- Special award to one Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.) Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR YOUTH:

### 1. Illustrating America – 3 categories – K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place in each category \$50 and certificate
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each category \$25 and certificate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in each category \$15 and certificate
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### 2. Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue – 2 categories – K-8, and 9-12

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place in each category \$75 with a small trophy with the music symbol
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in each category \$50 and certificate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category \$25 and certificate

## NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

### AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

#### 1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.) Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.) The Department Youth Activities Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Youth Activities Ambassador by April 30, 2024, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

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