

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

## Program Goals:

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups  
Youth Groups supporting our Veterans Citations  
Patriotic Youth Award  
Patriotism through Literacy  
Illustrating America

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

"One Family! One Voice! One Team!"

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

"From our Roots to Our Branches  
Extending Service to Our Veterans"

## PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY:

What comes to mind when one hears "Out of the Mouth of Babes"? Is it the honesty of our youth or innocence, in the expression of thought? If we indeed start "from our roots to our branches, extending service to our Veterans", most of our beginnings were spent with family, while illustrating our best scribbles and being read to, both via paperback books. That one voice, reciting words aloud, creates imagination, with a picture on the page, of a character's voice in the child's mind. That develops into cognition for the child, to find his or her own voice. To sound out diphthongs, pronunciations and start grasping grammar which all develops the comprehension needed to vocalize their newfound literacy!

## SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

We, as an Auxiliary have the chance to help our Youth "Be the change that you want to see in the world". Let us begin our Youth Activities by reading the 10 "tips of working with youth" found in MALTA. This preparation will guide your priorities to actively remember the privilege it is, to help teach our youth the skills to ultimately become responsible adults, through our support and good stewardship. By exemplifying our service to Veterans, this creates youth awareness on how to spread patriotism, honor our service men and women, including their families and the community, to the youth's benefit, in Girl & Boy Scouts, Schools, Libraries including Church & Shelter's.

## PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD & YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERAN CITATIONS

Learning that they too, are now also serving their country, molds the child self-worth, by putting others above self, in a way that the child can better relate to the sacrifices studied in history, in turn, fostering a desire to emulate and read more about our nation's historical figures. When we sponsor and work with our youth groups, these groups will undoubtedly meet the criteria for citations and awards, available on MALTA, that are fillable to print and properly recognize our youth and these youth groups that specifically support our Veterans.

While one student excels in learning about Patriotism through Literacy, another grabs a paint brush and illustrates an amazing battlefield that would be a perfect fit, to enter the art contest.

**Illustrating America** is open to any student in grades K-8 by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline who is enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school or home study program in the United States. There are three grade divisions; K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and more details on requirements and rules can be found on the Dept. Website and MALTA – look for the student brochure and entry form.

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Youth Activities Chairman  
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**YOUTH PROGRAM**  
**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, 2025, for judging.
- Certificate Awarded to each Auxiliary for using the Random Acts of Patriotism Cards

**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

**NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

**Awards for Auxiliaries**

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

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. 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, 2025 for judging.

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.

**Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen**

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Youth Activities Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of implementing youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth.
2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 56.