

Youth Activities

“Be the Lighthouse in Somebody’s Storm”

“Bridging the Gap for our Veterans”



Program goal 9
February 2026

Illustrating America Art Contest

VFW Auxiliary National 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 themes and technique.

A Patriotic Art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. Judging criteria and forms are available in MALTA under Youth Resources
It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings.

The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8

There are National awards for first, second and third place in each grade division.

Contest Eligibility

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

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do not frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8"x10" and not larger than 18"x24" including mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does not need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry

Approved by:
Dept. President
Mike Yates



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