



Dept. of Florida VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Program August 2026

August brings students, teachers and families back together. This is the perfect time for every Auxiliary to cultivate strong school and community partnerships, place scholarship information directly into students' hands and help young people begin before the October deadline.

August Action Challenge: Plant Five New Connections

Before the end of August, contact at least five schools or community partners and share the 2026–2027 scholarship opportunities.

- Guidance counselors and scholarship coordinators
- English, history and social studies teachers
- JROTC programs and student leadership groups
- Homeschool networks, libraries and youth organizations
- Art teachers and community art programs

Voice of Democracy Spotlight

For students in grades 9–12. Entrants prepare a 3–5-minute recorded audio essay and submit a typed copy based on the theme:

"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student deadline: October 31, 2026

Please reach out to me if you have any questions!

Scan the QR code below for more information

Approved by:

Dept. of Florida President
Kathy Wright



Patriot's Pen Spotlight

For students in grades 6–8. Entrants submit a 300–400 word written essay using the same 2026–2027 theme.

Student deadline: October 31, 2026

Work Hand in Hand with Your VFW Post

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs. Coordinate with your local participating Post before sharing submission instructions.

- Confirm the Post Scholarship Chairman and best contact information.
- Ask whether the Post is accepting entries through Scholars App, by email with permission, or directly at the Post.
- Request the current official entry forms and use the Post's exact submission directions.
- Offer Auxiliary help with school outreach, reminders, publicity and participant recognition.

Make Back-to-School Outreach Easy

When contacting schools, provide one clear message: the theme, eligible grades, required format, October 31 deadline and the local VFW Post contact. Ask that the information be shared through school announcements, newsletters, scholarship portals, classroom assignments and parent communications.

Help Students Grow

- Arrange for a veteran to speak with local students or youth groups about service, citizenship, and lessons learned.
- Set up a Scholarships Information Table or display at a library, school open house, community center, youth event, or local festival
- Encourage original work and remind students to carefully follow every entry requirement.
- Follow up in September so interested students do not lose momentum.

Recognition Starts Now

Begin planning a "Red Carpet" celebration for all scholarship participants—not only the winners. Certificates, photos, refreshments, patriotic decorations and a chance for students to share their work can make every entrant feel valued. Department and National Red Carpet award entries are due to the Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2027.

Report the Work You Are Growing

Reports may include school contacts, entry-form distribution, social media promotion, Post coordination, scholarship presentations, donations, meeting motions, student follow-up and recognition plans. homeschool groups, libraries, youth groups, JROTC programs, and community art organizations. If in doubt, ask me!



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