



Dept. of Florida VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Program October 2026

Plant the Seeds. Inspire the Voice. Create the Future.

**October Focus: Harvest the Entries. Finish Strong.
Celebrate Every Voice.**

June planted the seeds. July watered them. August built connections. September followed up. October is harvesting time. Stay close to your VFW Post, educators, students and families, use your tracker, and help every interested student cross the finish line before the October 31 deadline.

October Action Challenge: Harvest Every Entry

- Open your school tracker and contact every student, teacher or counselor on it by October 10.
- Confirm the VFW Post Scholarship Chairman, current entry forms and exact local submission method.
- Ask how your Auxiliary can help with certificates, publicity, participant recognition and the next scholarship push after October 31.

October 31 - Harvest Day!

Voice of Democracy

Grades 9-12

3-5 minute recorded audio essay
plus a written copy
National first prize: \$35,000

Patriot's Pen

Grades 6-8

300-400 word written essay
National first prize: \$5,000

2026-2027 Theme: "What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries must reach a participating local VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2026. Follow the submission instructions approved by that Post.

A Simple October Countdown

Oct. 1-10	Contact every prospect; verify forms and submission.
Oct. 11-20	Check progress; reinforce school reminders.
Oct. 21-27	Final outreach; check signatures, limits and files.
Oct. 28-31	Last call! Confirm receipt; thank students and educators.

Recognition Starts with the Entry

Thank every student who submits, keep a list of participants and schools, and begin planning certificates, photos and a Red-Carpet recognition event.

Every entry deserves to be celebrated!

After October 31: Recognize & Report

Recognition: Begin your Red-Carpet celebration plan now; Department and National Red-Carpet entries are **due March 31, 2027**.

Reporting: Record school contacts, promotions, number of entries, photos and recognition plans. Ask the Post for final Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry totals so your report tells the full story.

Keep Every Scholarship Seed Growing

- **Continuing Education** applications remain open for eligible Auxiliary members, spouses, sons and daughters age 21 or older; four \$2,250 scholarships are awarded and applications are due **February 15, 2027**.
- **Patriotic Art** entries for grades 9-12 are due to a participating Auxiliary **March 31, 2027** - November is a great time to reconnect with art teachers.

Prepare for November Now

- Count Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries and schools represented
- Thank educators and schedule participant recognition
- Shift your educator tracker to Patriotic Art outreach
- Share Continuing Education with eligible members and families
- Report October activity and save photos, emails and flyers

This is harvest month: every completed entry represents a student whose voice was encouraged to grow.

Approved by:

Dept. of Fl. President
Kathy Wright



Scan for Department
resources



**Please reach out to me if you have
any questions!**

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