

# 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

*"Champion for Veterans"*

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"*

The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to pass on our knowledge and help teach the youth of our nation the skills they need to become responsible adults through serving our country, our communities, our veterans and their families. We've all heard the words, "our youth are the future of our country." That day is today; we have the opportunity to teach our youth and help prepare them for the future!

### Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

Auxiliaries let's sponsor youth groups and engage youth with all 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.

- This year we are challenging our Auxiliaries to work with our Youth for **Grave Beautification**.
  - ✓ Organize an event for youth to clean and beautify gravesites and headstones of our Veterans.
  - ✓ Sponsorship possibilities as follows: Scouts, Faith-Based Youth Groups, JROTC, Youth Sport Teams, Home-schooled Association.

Let's start today because we are *"Champion for Veterans."*

### Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citation

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

The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations is available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under Youth Activities. Click on link and fill out the form.

### Patriotic Youth Award

The award used to recognize an individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members and their families. This award can be presented to individual members of a Youth Group. The Patriotic Youth award is available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under Youth Activities.

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

Student singing contest open for youth in grades K-12 showing their patriotism through singing the National Anthem in the genre of their choice. (Rock, pop, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, country or classical). The entries will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality and entertainment value.

Auxiliary first-place winner in each grade division to be sent to Department Youth Activities Chairman by **April 15, 2023**. Contest rules and entry forms are available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under Youth Activities.

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

## Patriotism through Literacy

Introducing our youth to reading opens doors and windows; expanding young minds to stretch and take their imagination to new heights. We have the opportunity to teach various times in American history and develop Patriotism for our country.

## Illustrating America

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

- Deadline for student entries to local Auxiliaries – March 31, 2023. The Auxiliary first place winner in each grade division will be sent to Department Youth Activities Chairman by April 15, 2023.

All our Auxiliaries have “*Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care*”, and we want to engage all our Youth. There are many ways to reach and communicate with your youth today through social media. Try using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat. Make videos and use them on your Auxiliary Facebook page, promote our goals and programs to reach our youth, teachers, community, friends and families. Have fun with the program.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

### 1. **Most outstanding promotion of a grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.**

- Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) membership classes with the **most outstanding promotion of a grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.**

*Criteria and entry form (required) available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2023.*

## NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

### AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

#### 1. **Most outstanding veteran grave beautification activity and/or event by an Auxiliary with youth involvement.**

- Citation to every Auxiliary **that hosts a veteran grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.**

*Criteria and entry form (required) available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2023.*

*Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.*

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the **most outstanding veteran grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.**

*Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.*

Sandi Hendriks  
Youth Activities Chairman  
[sandihendriks@yahoo.com](mailto:sandihendriks@yahoo.com)