

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIERS PROGRAM 2020/2021 CREATING, SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS**

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**CAN YOU *HEAR* THEM??? DO YOU *SEE* THEM??? THEY ARE *OUR YOUTH!!!***

The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, and Veterans. Today's youth are the future of our nation. Let's all encourage and educate them.

### **GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE**

An individual National Anthem singing contest for youth between the ages of 6-16 years at the time of local entry. Youth learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" while expressing their creativity. Encourage them to sing "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" in any musical genre: jazz, country, pop, R&B, classical, hip hop, etc. Allow them to be creative. This contest provides a fantastic opportunity for youth to demonstrate their patriotism. **Citation and \$25, from National Headquarters**, to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Conferences with the most outstanding promotion of the "GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE" National singing contest. The words cannot be changed.

#### **AWARDS FOR AUXILIARY**

Most outstanding promotion of the "GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE" National Anthem singing contest. Citation to every Auxiliary that promotes the "GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE" National Anthem singing contest. Criteria and entry form (**REQUIRED**) available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their **Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2021**.

### **YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS**

Youth are doing amazing things for Veterans in communities. We need to recognize them with a **Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citation**. Recognize a youth group in your community by applying for a citation. Citation applications are available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). There are many different ways our youth are involved with Veterans. Request a citation for any of these. National headquarters mailed out over 600 of these citations last year. Recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become part of their daily lives.

### **PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD**

Do you know an individual youth who displays their patriotism, supports our Veterans, service members and their families? Present them with a **Patriotic Youth Award!** Patriotic Youth Award is available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under Youth Activities.

### **ILLUSTRATING AMERICA**

Open to all students, including home schooled students, in **grades 1-8** at time of local entry and a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. It will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

Students must attend school in the state of the sponsoring Auxiliary. **Deadlines:** Entries received by local Auxiliaries March 31. **Rules:** Art must be two-dimensional, must be on canvas or paper, watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used. Do not frame. Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white. Do not use color mats. Reinforced the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. The art should be no smaller than 8"x10" but no larger than 18"x24", not including mat. **Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted.**

### **YOUTH GROUP EXAMPLES FOR VFW AUXILIARY SPONSORSHIP**

Youth sports teams, Church youth groups, after school programs, youth focused organization, school clubs, home school associations. Youth community service groups, nonprofit organization youth advisory councils, service learning and civic engagement departments in high school and colleges.

### **INVOLVE YOUTH IN ALL AUXILIARY PROGRAMS**

Teach our youth about Auxiliary efforts to respect and take pride in our country, serve hospitalized Veterans, elect leaders, pass legislation that secures benefits for our Veterans, and many other worthy efforts. Project examples: Marching in patriotic holiday parades, volunteering to help veterans and service members and their families with yard work or household repairs. Organizing assembly, collection and delivery of care packages for troops.

### **MAKE YOUR AUXILIARY ACCESSIBLE TO TODAY'S YOUTH**

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. **Social Media** as teaching, and information tools allow our youth to view and comment on each other's activities.

### **PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY**

Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free, (use your local library!) initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history. As Dr. Seuss said, "Reading can take you places you have never been before."

Most Outstanding Promotion of **PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY**

Form is required and available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Citation will be mailed directly to the Auxiliary. Citation and \$50 to one Auxiliary in the Nation for the most outstanding participation/promotion of Patriotism through Literacy. Auxiliary entries are due to Department chairman by March 31, 2021. Winning entry will be announced at the 2021 National Convention. Criteria and entry form (REQUIRED) at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Remember that involving youth in service to Veterans, in conjunction with your Auxiliary can bring in **new membership** to your Auxiliary.

Again, thank you for all your hard work and effort working with our Youth. Continue to inspire, educate and encourage while we "**STAY HUMBLE, WORK HARD, BE KIND**"