

YOUTH ACTIVITIES, DECEMBER 2020
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I hope you are working on the "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue" contest which encourages individual youth to learn the words to and sing "The Star- Spangled Banner." Did you know that America didn't have a National Anthem until 1931? Each Department is allowed to send one (1) first-place winner to National for judging. We will have one (1) winner per Program Division. One National winner will be selected from the 10 Program Division winners. I am sure each of you will have some great ideas on how to promote this new contest. An entry form, judging sheet and fliers are available under Youth Activities on the Resource page of the National website: www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources then scroll to the bottom under Youth Activities for the most up-to date forms and information. Malta is another resource. Please be sure to look in the 2020-2021 National Program Book for all the contest rules and deadlines or your program packet.

Don't forget to promote and participate in Patriotism through Literacy. Local libraries are always looking for donations and volunteers. You may come up with an idea that will get families involved and use this as a tool to incorporate a Membership drive at the same time!

Don't forget our Illustrating America contest. This year there are three NEW grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8. You could host an art day at the Post. Children could come and visit with members and draw and paint. Make it part of an open house to involve the community.

Youth LOVE social media so use it to promote our program. Some of you may have a Twitter account; this is another way to reach youth and their parents. Do you have an Instagram? Everyone takes pictures at events and this is another avenue to showcase your Auxiliary. Don't forget Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest, Snap chat and Tic-tok! All of the social media networks I mentioned are used by today's youth. Ask the youth to help your members understand why they use them. It's is a great way to connect with today's youth! When did America get our National Anthem? I wish you a Merry Christmas, filled with family, friends and love.

Respectfully, Trula