

YOUTH ACTIVITIES, JANUARY 2021
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Here's to a New Year, New Beginnings and New Goals.

There's still plenty of time to get the entries in for the **“GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE”** national singing contest. The National Anthem was written by Francis Scott Key. Entries are due to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2021, then to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021. These uncertain times have us racking our brains to overload!! Have you considered asking your home Post to host the recordings? Limit participants to a couple a day. Maybe even invite your surrounding Posts to have their participants come to your Post and make a day of it. There is an Auxiliary that has had a local “Talent Contest” and given prizes for the winners, using the National Anthem. We can always come up with great ideas by working together. Share information about the contest on social media. Ages 6-16, at time of entry. Don't forget to have your permission slips, and entry forms on hand. Select your judges, examples would be vocal music teachers, and persons who are knowledgeable about vocal music.

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA art contest for grades 1-8 is something that could be done at the library or even your Post. Our youth can be creative and use their imagination to paint and draw. Kids love prizes and most of all praise. Use the artwork to decorate a wall to showcase this talent. In to your Auxiliary by March 31, 2021 then to Department Chairman by April 15, 2021.

Promote and participate in **PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY**. Reading has many benefits, including increased grammar and writing skills, improved focus and concentration and helps children to understand and share the feelings of others. Reading stretches the imagination. Grab some books and have the youth read out-loud with each other.

I totally understand the problems we have been facing and continue to endure. Remember though, that there are children and grandchildren of our Auxiliary and Post members that should be included in all programs; however, they must reside in Missouri.

Whether or not youth or their parents are eligible for the VFW or VFW Auxiliary, we need to get them involved in patriotic activities. By encouraging, engaging and enriching the youth of today, you are helping them develop into our nation's leaders of tomorrow. Please share your passion for our Veterans and invite youth to participate in our Youth Activities Program. There are so many positive ways to involve our youth in our organization. vfwauxiliary.org/resources is an awesome tool.

Citations are available from National Headquarters to present to youth groups in recognition of their efforts and service projects that honor our Veterans. Those forms are on the website, fill out and send to me and I will send to National. (Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans, citation request form). Year-end reports are due to Department Chairman by April 15, 2021. Who wrote the Star Spangled Banner?

Respectfully, Trula Missey

“STAY HUMBLE, WORK HARD, BE KIND”