

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
APRIL 2021
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There's not much time left for our **"GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE"** National Anthem singing contest. Ages 6-16. An individual national anthem singing contest for youth ages six to 16 at the time of local entry, and a US. citizen or US. national. Youth learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" while expressing their creativity. Who wrote the song? The contest highlights the vocal talent of young people while promoting patriotism.

- Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. Contestant must live or attend school in the state of the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$2,000. Entries to your Auxiliary by March 31, 2021, then to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021. Don't forget your yearend reports.

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA: A patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings.

- The contest consists of three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Entries to your Auxiliary by March 31, 2021, then to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021.

The VFW Auxiliary works to teach our nation's youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, veterans and service members. We engage youth in positive volunteer experiences and believe every young person can find a place to serve that will improve their lives, as well as the lives they touch.

For Easter, ideas include:

- Decorate Easter baskets/buckets before the egg hunt
- Play Pin the Tail on the Easter Bunny and/or have an egg toss
- Dye eggs or fill eggs with candy
- Have an "Egg Carton" scavenger hunt and have youth fill the carton with items on a list
- Invite older youth to decorate for the event and hide eggs for the egg hunt.

Remember to have a card creation station for youth at your holiday events. Home-bound and hospitalized veterans love to get cards – especially cards created by youth!

While working with youth at these events, be sure to talk with them about areas of emphasis under our Youth Activities program. There is probably something else we do that they would like to participate in! Make sure to promote and use the new and updated items under our Youth Activities Program.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans:

Youth groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families. Great traditions and citizenship start at an early age. We recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become a part of their daily lives.

All material and citations can be found on the website: vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

Let's keep our youth active with in our Auxiliary and Community Family.

Trula Missey, Department of Missouri VFWA Youth Activities Chairman