Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



2023 – 24 District 12 School Of Instruction

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business!

1- All Election Reports MUST be Submitted to the State Adjutant by 15 May 2024! If submitted through the Quartermaster Tools, State will instantly receive a copy. This is required to enable a Post Vote and Registration at the State and National Convention!

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business! Ongoing Goals

2- 100% Membership by May 1st for your Post to receive All State Awards at the State Convention providing all other criteria has been met. If Membership is lacking, the Post has until June 30th to reach 100% and receive at the Fall CoA.

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business! Ongoing Goals

3- All 4 (June, September, December, March) Audits MUST be submitted by the close of business the respective following month. Trustee Signatures are not required for the State Copy. They are required for the Quartermaster Copy as per National By Laws when the Post is Inspected (at least 2 of 3 Trustees)

4- Posts must have the most current Podium Edition on hand (and recommend having the upcoming edition on order with receipt available.

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business! Inspection Noted Items – Have Ready!

5- All Post Quartermasters Must Be Bonded. As well as those who handle Post Funds, is, Club Manager, and others that handle significant funds. (Bonds must cover ALL Assets. Copies of your Post Insurance will also be required to inspect. Copies of State and National Certificates of Insurance as well.

Your Post must be incorporated in accordance with National By-Laws, Section 708 and must obtain proper liability coverage according to the National By-Laws, Section 709. Post must have current Certificate of Insurance and sent to State Headquarters. (If applicable).

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business!

Liability and Dram Insurance is mandated if you run a canteen or serve any alcoholic beverages of any kind! A certificate of liability must be sent to department by April 30, 2024 **OR IMMEDIATELY** if yours are expired now!

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business! Inspection Noted Items – Have Ready!

- 6- Posts need to have current **Incorporation Certificate** from the State of Missouri (Jay Ashcroft, Secretary of State Office) to keep your non-profit current. Hint: Inspection item.
 - 7- All Posts must have Either Websites or a Social Media Platform operational and current. Post Commander, Service Officer, and Quartermaster Contact Info must be available

Emphasize the known shortages in Reporting the Required Information pertaining to VFW Business!
Inspection Noted Items – Be Ready!

8- Posts must utilize the Webmail Service – Verified by the Department Webmaster.

Instruction on the Webmail later in Program.

Event Specific Reporting and Requirements Event Reported Activity

1- Post Commanders or Representatives must attend a District SOI and all meetings. District Commanders are required to be at the State SOI as an All State requirement. Post Commanders or Representatives are encouraged to attend the State SOI if they are sponsored by their Post general membership. Electronic attendance Commander's prerogative (Must have 1 Week advanced request). Reported by District to State.

Event Specific Reporting and Requirements

1a- IMPORTANT!!! ALL POST AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS WHO CANNOT MAKE THEIR PERSPECTIVE MEETINGS MUST CONTACT THE STATE COMMANDER TO BE EXCUSED IN ADVANCE!!!! If Excused and it is a SOI, the Post Commander must find another District SOI to attend asking that District Commander for permission to attend as a courtesy. The SOI is a All State Requirement!

Event Specific Reporting and Requirements

3- Posts must have at minimum 2 Reports in each of the 7 Online Reporting Categories.

Community Involvement Americanism

Legislative Activity

Veteran Service

POW MIA Recruiting

VSO Event (Post Service Officer)

Event Specific Reporting and Requirements

3a- Posts must have at minimum 2 Reports in each of the 7 Online Reporting Categories.

NOTE: Any Scouting Activities, it is requested that they be listed under the Scouting Category. They will be reviewed by the State Scoutmaster then transferred to the Community Involvement under Scouting. This aids him with his stand alone reporting to National. There are the detailed aspects of reporting under the Scouting Category he needs.

Event Specific Reporting and Requirements

3b- Posts are to have 2 Buddy Poppy Drives.

NOTE; No clear means of reporting it as per National, the actual Drive is a non reportable item. Events during the Drive are reportable. So announce the "During the Buddy Poppy Drive, we did this and did that.

So, Have the Drives and make them good ones!

Funding Related Activities

1- Post must make a Donation to the Missouri Veteran Service Officer Program. Earmark the Check to Missouri Veteran Service Officer Program Donation. Send to Department Quartermaster; 3401 Knipp Dr; Jefferson City, MO 65109. No Later Than 30 April.

Do this early in the year so its done and over. It should be covered in your Post Standard Operating Procedures.

Funding Related Activities

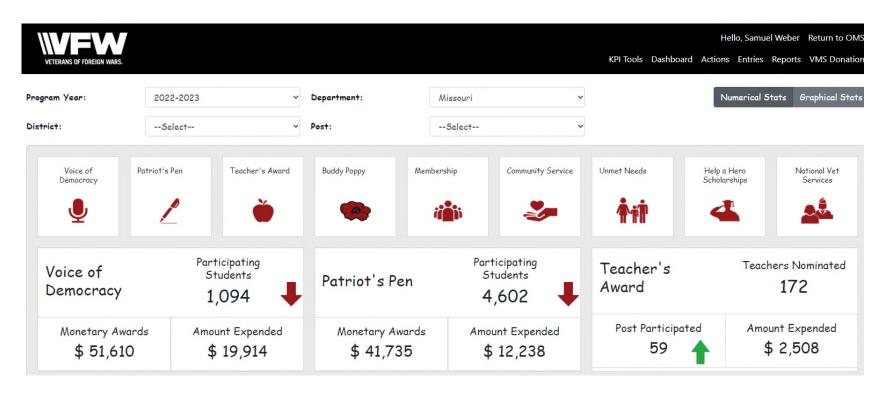
2- Post must sponsor a Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Entry to District by 15 November.

The Citizenship Educator of the Year Entry may be done for the All American Program as all 3 are then required. This is due on November 15 as well.

Details in the Joint Session.

Funding Related Activities

3- Post must make a Donation to the National Military and Veteran Support Program. Do this through the All American Dashboard Portal.



Funding Related Activities



Donate on Behalf of Your Department, District or Post

We appreciate your group donation to **Veterans & Military Support Program**. Please indicate how you would like your gift designated below. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to helping our heroes.

Select a Program	Most Urgent Veterans & Military Support Needs ✔
-	vired you submit your specific Department, District or Post information in text fields below to credit for All American standing.
I am making my g	ift on behalf of my:
O Department	
O District	
O Post	

Funding Related Activities

3a- Fill in all fields and verify your selection to Post and clearly identify the Post. Any amount works for All State, \$100 or better for All American.

Do this early in the year so its done and over. It should be covered in your Post Standard Operating Procedures.

Direct Link - https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate/1

Direct Mail -

VFW National Headquarters; C/O Military Assistance Programs; 406
West 34th St; Kansas City, MO 64222-2736
Earmark "Veterans and Military Support Donation"

All State Post Awards

1 – For 100% Posts prior to 1 January, the Commander and Quartermaster receives a 100% Commander Shirt at the Winter CoA.
2- All Post Commanders and Quartermasters who achieves All State will receive a All State Cover (or a \$75 Gift Certificate at the VFW Store on their option).

3- The Post will receive an All State Plaque.

Note; If qualified except for Membership by 30 April, the memstats still count up to 30 June for All State Presentation at the Fall Council Meeting.

All State District Criteria and Awards

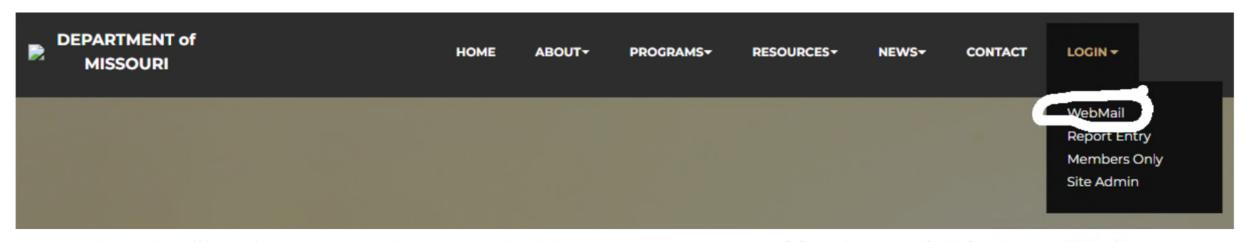
These are readily available by reading the Manual and will not discuss at this training. If the Posts get All State, the District is likely to follow.

In Brief,

98% Membership, All 3 VOD, PP, and Teacher. Donate to MO Vet Service Officer Fund and National MAP Fund, The Biggie – ALL POSTS MUST REPORT at least 2 Events in Each Category = 100%, All Posts must have an active Website / Social Media Site listing their Top Officers, a National Home Chair and at least 1 District Member go on the National Home Trip, must designate a District Recruiter and submit to Department,

Awards mirror the Post Awards.

Missouri Webmail – the only Authorized Communication for MO VFW
Enter with movfw.org then LogIn then Webmail
There is only 1 address for each Post – postXXXX@movfw.org
Passwords were not reset this year. If you cannot enter, contact the District Adjutant and he will contact the State Webmaster for the Reset (or directly contact the MO Webmaster).



Webmail will work on Smart Phones and Tablets. Yet sometimes if finicky. For full features, it is best to Use the computer. Also, DO NOT SET IT UP TO FORWARD!!!!! It gets picked up as a Spam Generator.

ALL Post Officers should have Access to the Post Webmail so share the credentials.

From the MO Website, you will get this. If you know the Password, click Check your Mail. If you know it and want to reset the Password, click Change Password. To enter the Email, click the "GO TO EMAIL" Button.

DEPARTMENT of MISSOURI

HOME

BOUT-

RESOUR

NEWS*

ONTACT

LOGIN

PLEASE NOTE: Do **NOT** set up email forwarding to Yahoo, AOL or Verizon.net email addresses from the email accounts that we provide. We are getting blamed for ALL junk mail that is being forwarded to those accounts and Yahoo, AOL and Verizon.net are blocking our server as a result.



CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Mail Enable Email Client

Check your web based email account. Note, this email program was designed to be a quick way to check your email from anywhere. It has limited features and was not designed to replace your email software.

GO TO EMAI



CHANGE EMAIL PASSWORD

Plesk Email Admin

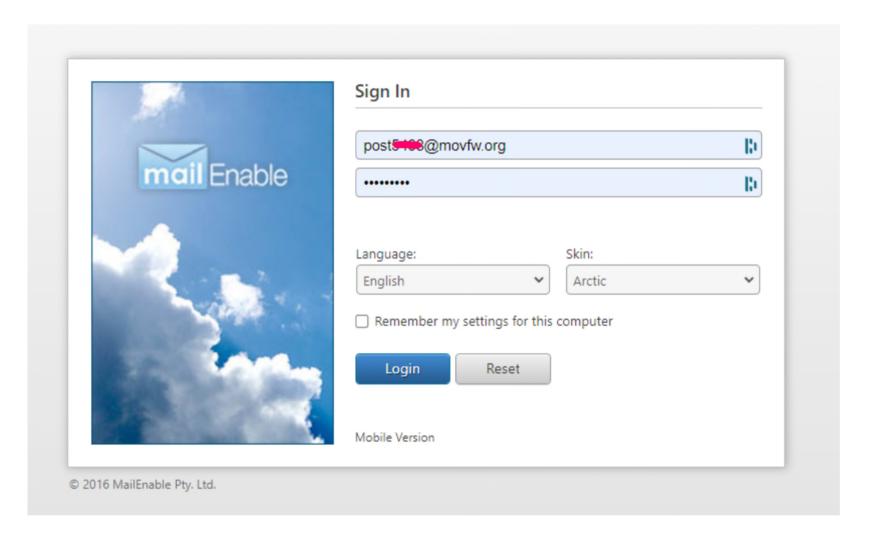
Click Below to change your email password.

Note: You must log in with your existing password to make the change.

CHANGE PASSWORD



You will get this window. Enter the Credentials and Login.

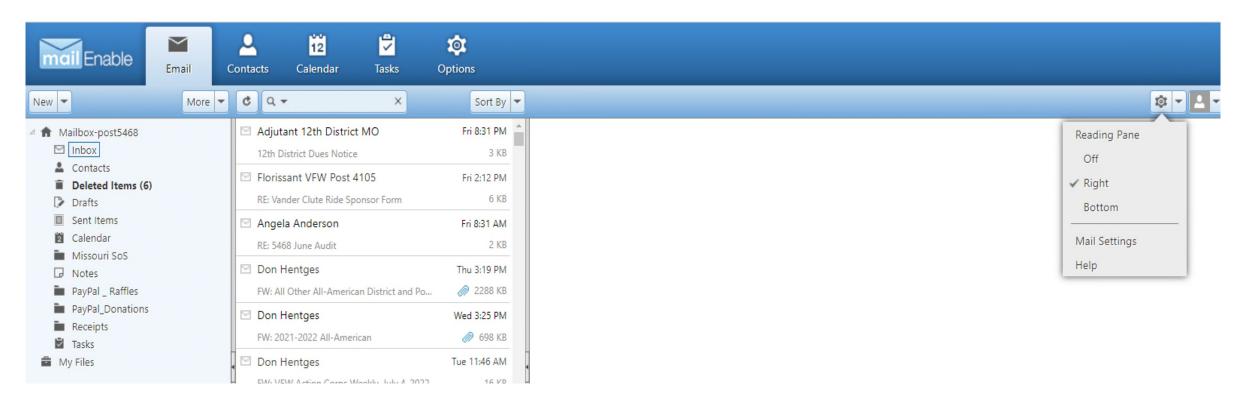


Once in, here is your Inbox.

It works good with the Reading pane on the Right.

On a case-by-case basis, we can go over the various settings at your own device after the meeting.

All the District and commonly used addresses have been loaded into your Contacts list already.



Any further operational Questions will be handled by a Visit by the District to render one on one instruction. This is as the settings would only affect the one device.

As Webmail Use IS An ALL STATE Requirement, it is time for all to get on board.

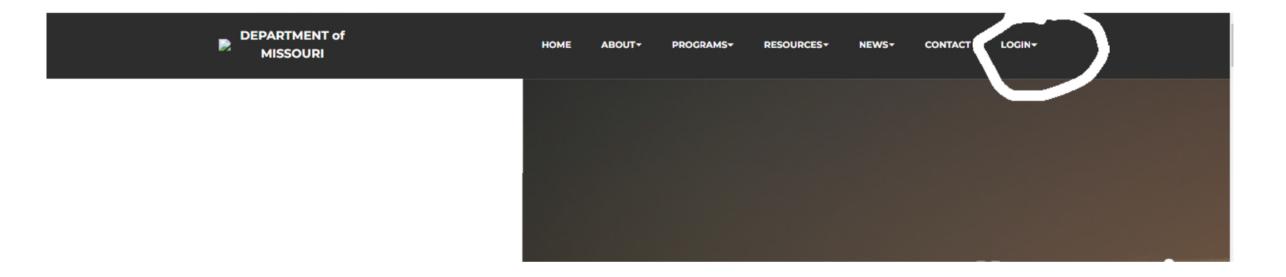
There are several times when dispatches are made that will NOT be sent out to personal addresses.

And as many are active with Facebook, this is just as connectable as Facebook is.

movfw.org is the preferred site as it tends to be updated quicker. Missouri General Orders are under Resources as with the Forms. View the Sliders on the Home Page as the Quick Links are there

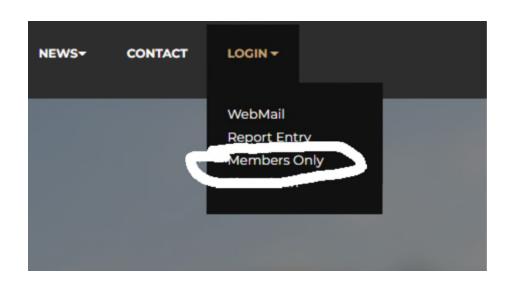


Missouri Online Reporting Go to movfw.org then Login



Access only works through the Missouri Website. You will not gain entrance through any other Post or District Website.

Select Members Only



Member ID # is on your Membership Card User Name is your Last Name with the First Letter Capitalized

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. DEPART MISS	MENT of OURI	НОМЕ	ABOUT+	PROGRAMS *	RESOURCES+	NEWS*	CONTACT	LOGIN*
	MEMBERS	ON	LY				Log Ot	ut
	Member ID #:			10				
	Password:			10				

For Auxiliary Members to enter, submit full contact info to the State Webmaster so credentials to be created, then the Login will be as listed above.

As per the State Webmaster;

For Auxiliary members that input reports I will need the following to set them up in the system:

- 1. Auxiliary Member ID number
- 2. First Name
- 3. Last Name
- 4. Post
- 5. District
- 6. Email address
- 7. Phone
- 8. Address
- 9. City
- 10. State
- 11. Zip Code

Select - Community Service Reporting



HOME ABOUT+

PROGRAMS*

RESOURCES*

NEWS+

CONTACT

LOGIN+



MEMBERS ONLY

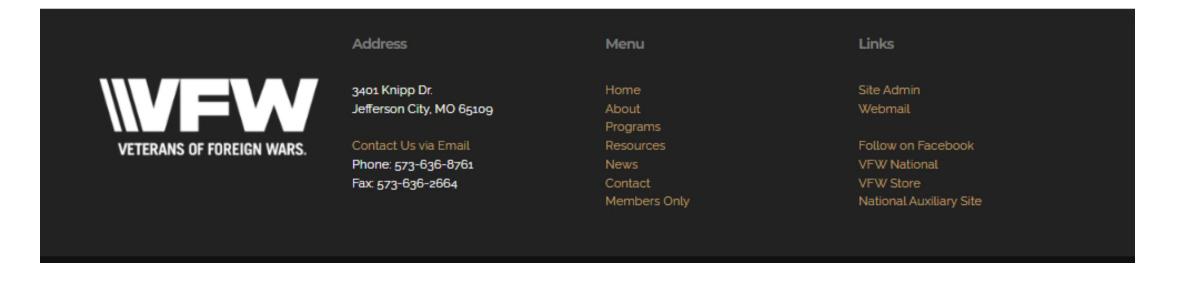
Log Out Change Profile

DashBoard Community Service Reporting Use "Log Out" to Exit.

"Change Profile" to update Email Address or Phone Number.

"Dashboard" to review statistics by State, District, or Post, current year or historical.

"Community Service Reporting" to make Entries.

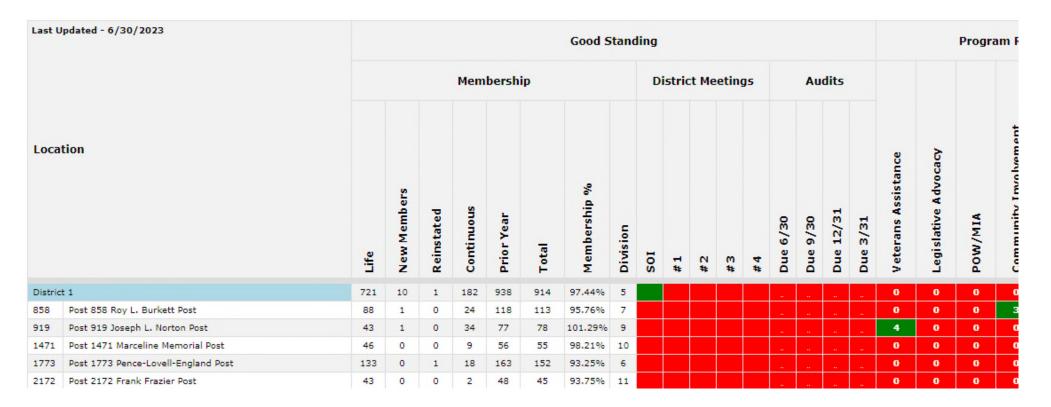


The Dashboard opens on current Statewide by District view. The search can be tuned to a Single District only or 1 Post only. You can also select the year (Default Year is the Current Year).

District ~	Fiscal Year:	2024~	SUBMIT

Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States
Department of Missouri

Department/District/Post Administrative Operations Status



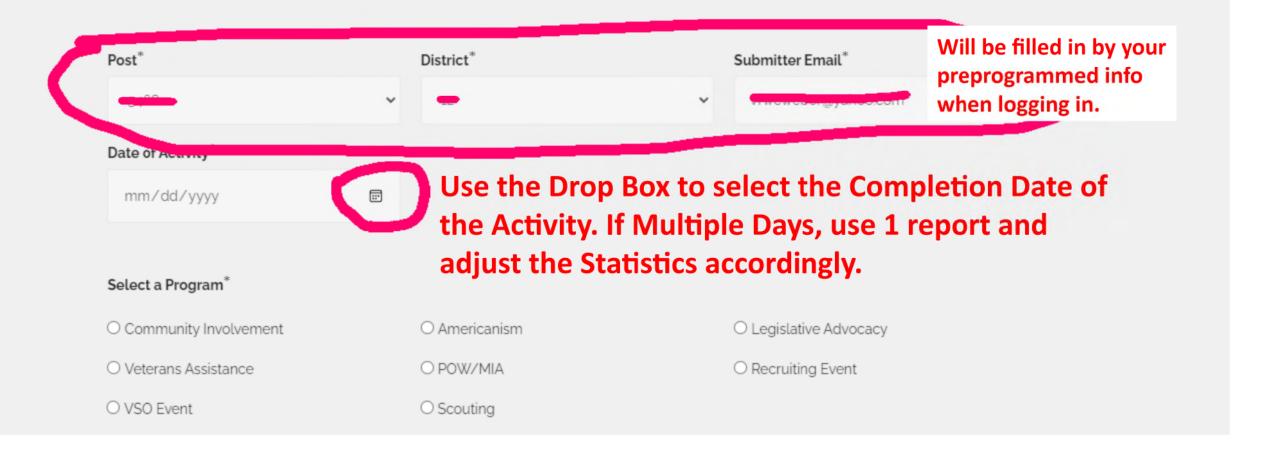
VFW Department of Missouri Community Service Reporting

Please use the form below to enter your activity.

One report for ONE activity.

You will get this screen.

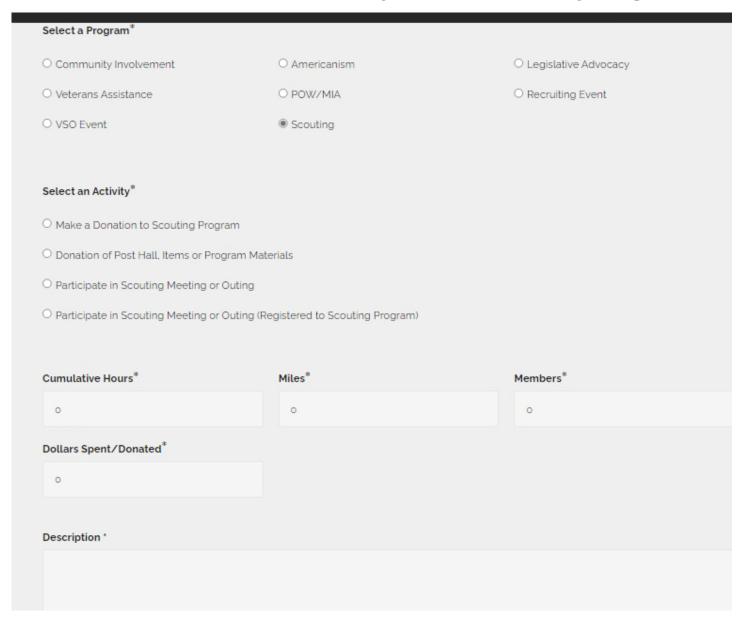
Every item must be completed. The Post, District, and Submitter Email is auto filled by default.



For Community Involvement you get these Options

Select a Program*					
Community Involvement	O Americanism		O Legislative Advocacy		
O Veterans Assistance	O POW/MIA		O Recruiting Event		
O VSO Event	O Scouting				
Select an Activity*					
O Tree Planting Program		O Scouting Organization Support	t		
O Community Blood Drive		O Participate in Patriots Pen			
O Community CPR Class		O Participate in Voice of Democracy			
O Recycle Program		O Participate in Teacher Entry			
		O Sponsor Youth Contests/Spec	ial Events		
O Adopt a Highway Program		O Achievement Awards Commun	nity/School		
O Youth or Hunter Safety Program		O Recognize Public Employees			
O Drug Awareness Program		O Donate Hall to Non Profit Orga	nization		
O Community Emergency Assistance		O Other			
O Volunteer in Schools and Community					
O Sport/Athletic Sponsorship					

For Community Involvement you get these Options



Any Scouting Activities, it is requested that they be listed under the Scouting Category. They will be reviewed by the State Scoutmaster then transferred to the **Community Involvement** under Scouting. This aids him with his stand alone reporting to National. There are the detailed aspects of reporting under the **Scouting Category he** needs.

For Americanism you get these Options

O Community Involvement	Americanism	O Legislative Advocacy
O Veterans Assistance	O POW/MIA	O Recruiting Event
O VSO Event	O Scouting	
Select an Activity*		
O Get Out to Vote Program		
O Color Guard Activities		
O Honor Guard Activities		
O Flag Disposal Ceremony		
O Participate or Conduct Flag Ceremony		
O Present Flag Education Program		
O Veterans Day		
O Memorial Day		
O Pearl Harbor Day		
O Loyalty Day		
O g11 Remembrance Day		
O Other		

For Legislative Advocacy you get these Options

Select a Program*		
O Community Involvement	O Americanism	Legislative Advocacy
O Veterans Assistance	O POW/MIA	O Recruiting Event
O VSO Event	O Scouting	
Select an Activity*		
O State		
O National		
O Other		

For Veterans Assistance you get these Options

Select a Program*		
O Community Involvement	O Americanism	O Legislative Advocacy
Veterans Assistance	O POW/MIA	O Recruiting Event
O VSO Event	O Scouting	
Select an Activity*		
O Donate to Veterans Service Officer Fund		
O Assist Veterans and their Families		
O Loaning of Hospital Type Equipment		
O Conduct Military Funerals		
O Other		

For POW MIA you will get these Options

Select a Program*							
O Community Involvement	O Americanism	O Legislative Advocacy					
O Veterans Assistance	● POW/MIA	O Recruiting Event					
O VSO Event	O Scouting						
Select an Activity*							
O Conducted Program in the Community							
O Conducted Program in School							
O Post Ceremony Attended by the Public	O Post Ceremony Attended by the Public						
O POW/MIA Flag Displayed at Ceremony							
O POW/MIA Flag Displayed at Community Pr	rogram or Parade						
O Other							

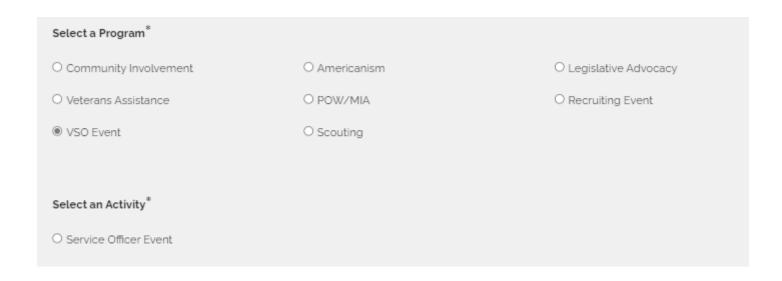
REMEMBER – Activity MUST BE PUBLIC

For Recruiting Events you get these Options

Select a Program*		
O Community Involvement	O Americanism	O Legislative Advocacy
O Veterans Assistance	O POW/MIA	Recruiting Event
O VSO Event	O Scouting	
Select an Activity*		
O Off Site (Public Forum)		
O Cold Canvas (Stores, ETC)		
O Phone Calling (MAL/Membership Rosters)		
O Face to Face Interview		

Enter solid report of the number of contacts, interests, and actual Recruitments / Renewals in the Description Text Field

For Post Service Officer Event you get this Option



Remember to include how you Advertised the Event, Where the Event was held, and good description of the activity itself in the Description Text Field.

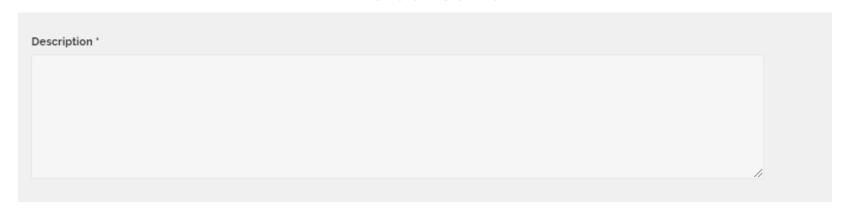
Here you enter the total number of Hours, Miles, Members, and Cost to produce the Event. If in conjunction with multiple reports, adjust all reports accordingly.



If the Event was in co-ordination with other Posts, enter that detail of the other Post involvement and enter ONLY the above information as your Post completed.

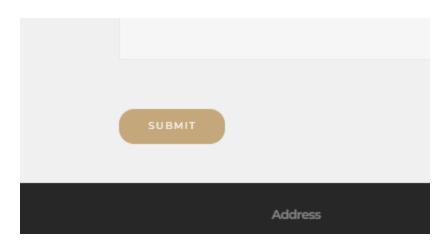
Enter a Clear Description of the Activity including Where, What, Who it Impacted,

And with Recruiting, Post Service Officer Event, and Recruiting, the other Info asked for

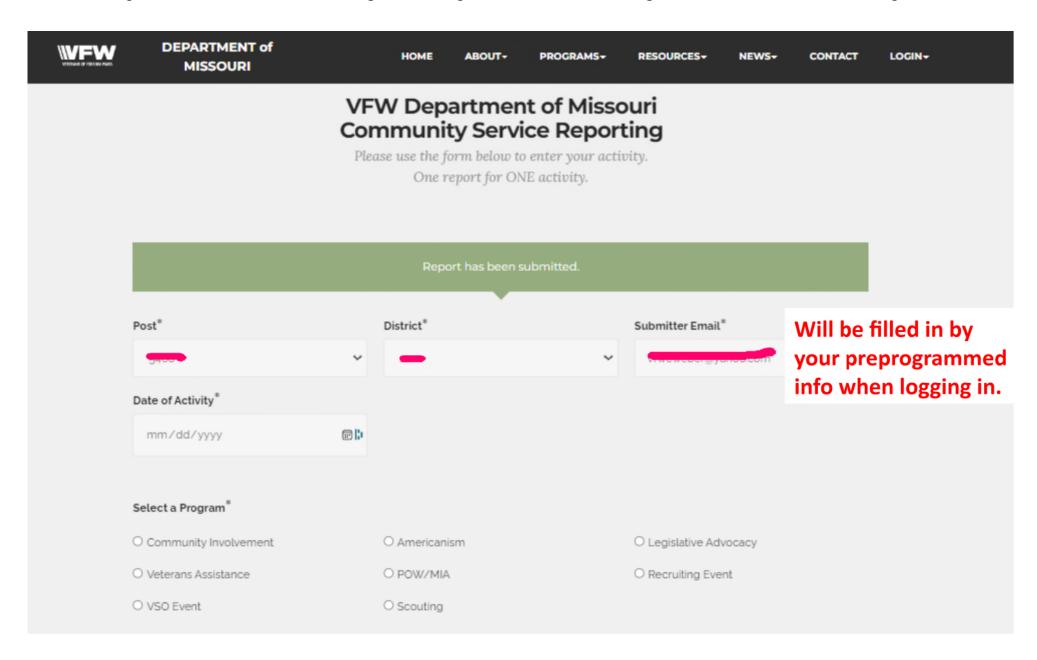


If the Event was in co-ordination with other Posts, enter that detail of the other Post involvement and enter ONLY the above information as your Post completed.

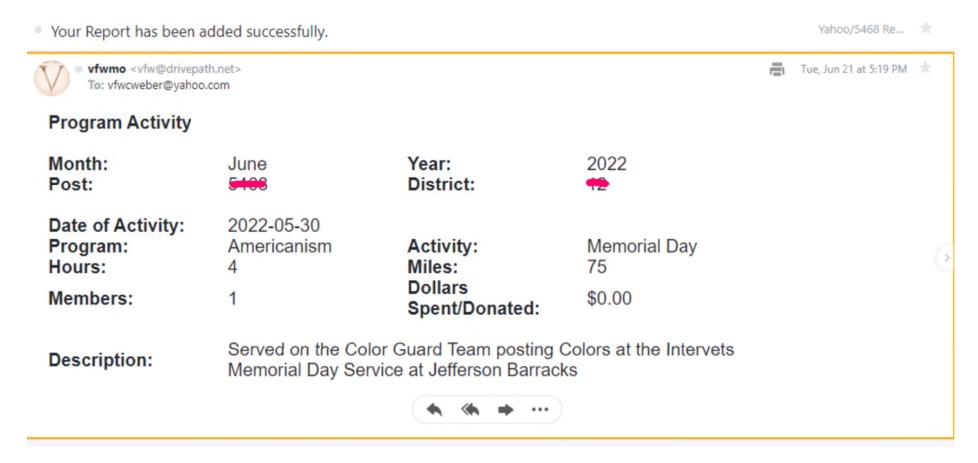
Click the Submit Box only once. If all Fields have entries made it will acknowledge success and you will be receiving an Email. If not, it will tag the shortages for your completion, then Submit the report again



Report successfully completed, ready for the next report



Copy of a successfully entered report



Highly advise printing as PDF and provide to your Adjutant for Records Keeping. The Current Statistics are stored under "Dashboard" and selectable for the Full State, By District, and by Post. And historical data is stored beginning with the 2022 – 23 Year.

Future Council of Administration Meetings for 2023-2024

Fall Council of Administration

September 22-23, 2023 Oasis, Springfield, MO

Winter Council of Administration Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen & Teacher Awards

February 9-10, 2024 Stoney Creek, Columbia, MO

State Convention

June 6-9, 2024 Oasis, Springfield, MO

2023 - 2024 12th District Missouri Meeting Schedule

Note, All District Meetings will begin as a Joint Session with the Auxiliary. The July will start as a Joint School of Instruction for Shared Information. Lunch, then retire to conclude respective Meetings and Training. The December Meeting will begin with the Joint Opening and the VOD / PP / Teacher Banquet, the Awards, then Respective Meetings (Only Required detail for this Meeting)

Date	Town Location / Post #	Time	Notes
Sat 15 July 2023	Overland / St Ann Post 3944	12:00 AM	District Meeting
	10815 Midland Blvd, Overland, MO		School of Instruction
Sat 14 Oct 2023	Lemay Post 4223 215 Military Rd St Louis, Mo. 63125	12:00 PM	District Meeting
Sat 9 Dec 2023 Special Meeting	Soldiers Memorial 1315 Chestnut St St Louis, Mo 63103	11:00 AM	Dept Cdr and Dept Ladies Aux President Requested, VOD PP Teacher Awards Banquet
Sat 17 Feb 2024	Ballwin Post 6274 115 Mimosa Lane Ballwin, Mo. 63011	12:00 PM	District Meeting
Sat 13 Ap 2024	Florissant Post 4105 410 Rue St Francois St Florissant, Mo. 63031	12:00 PM	District Convention

Dates and Times Subject to Change. Notice Will Be Given Appropriately

Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



Go Forth and have a SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



2023 – 24 District 12 Joint School Of Instruction

PATRIOT'S PEN



2023-2024 Theme

"How are you inspired by America?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest,

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level, Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post, Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts, Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find a VFW Post." or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- . Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- · Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- + Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- + Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2023. You can submit your easay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points: You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2023-2024 theme is:

"How are you inspired by America?"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2023.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for 'Find a State Contact' to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

> For assistance contact the VFW National Headquarters at 816.968.1155 Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

2023-2024 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

	Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post#					
Name: First, M.L., Lest	VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)					
Address	Post Address					
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip					
Phone Email						
	VFW Post Email					
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count	No. of participants No. of winners					
School Name, City, State	Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$					
Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)	Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$					
To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over)	To Be Completed by the VFW District. I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patrict's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry.					
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)	into the Department.					
Parent/Guardian Signature Date	District Chairperson Signature Dist. #					
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone	Address					
Parent/Guardiar's Email						
What Are the Rules?	City, State, Zip					
You must write your own essay.	Phone Email					
 All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay trile (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. 	To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson I certify that the student named to the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.					
In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay						
(including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is	Department Chairperson Signature					
your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a	(-1)					
staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).	Daytime Phone Email					
The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme.	The winner @ has been O will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on					
should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used spaningly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for	Local VFW Post Information:					
punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone	Contact:					
and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and	Phone: Best Time To Call:					
execution of the organization's programs and activities.	Alternate Contact:					
 At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW. 	Phone: Best Time To Call:					
I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules	TWISTED X Brands A Proud Sponsor					

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

Patriot's Pen Competition...

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level

Signature of Student Participant Designed \$1/2023

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2023-2024 Theme

"What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023 Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program, Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, "What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools, Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your enailed entry form. essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed easay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post, Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link https://www.vfw.org/ ContactUs/ and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2023. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

2023-2024 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

voice of beinocracy competition	Level voice of Democracy Competition.					
Must Be Completed by All Contestants	Post Commander/Chairpenson Signature Post #					
Name: First, M.I., Last	VFW Austiary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)					
Address	Paut Address					
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip					
Phone Email	VFW Post Email					
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Age Jacket Size	No. of students participating No. of winners advanced to District					
School Name, City, State	Ant. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards 5					
Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)	Ant, of Post/Aux, additional expenses (harquet, pins, etc.) 5					
To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over) Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)	To Be Completed by the VFW District I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.					
Parent/Guardian Signature Date	District Chairperson Signature Dist. *					
Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone	Address					
Parent/Guardian Email	City, State, Zip					
Participant Agreement for Students	Phone Emil					
Advancing to National Level	To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson					
If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my	I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.					
heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Voterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW)	Department Chairperson Signature ()					

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post

If set parer

Final In co Dem beirs disch and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

Signature of Student Participant

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this elimination from the competiti incentives awarded.

essay for another VFW competition, I face	
ion and will return any and all prizes or	NVFV
	METERANS OF ESPECIEN



For assistance contact:

816,968,1155

The winner @has been Qwill be (check one) notified that they are

the first-place Department winner on





2023 Smart / Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Key things to consider

Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/Find-a-Post for Post locations or call VFW Programs

Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

DEADLINES

Patriots Pen

Voice of Democracy

Smart / Maher Citizenship Education Teacher

Must Be Received on 31 October by the Post,

OK to pick up 1 November.

Posts Must Work With Auxiliaries During Judging!

Must be received by District on 15 November

(Unless previously delivered)

The Auxiliary Expanded the Patriotic Art Program to the Younger Ages! With 3 Age Groups by Grades K – 2, 3- 5, and 6-8!

	VFW Auxili Illustrating Ame	•† C	Contest	
Student Name:			_Age: _	
ddress:	City:	State:		Zip:
mail:		Phone:		
School Name:			Grade:	
'arent/Guardian Name:				
	Pare			
	the student listed above to be published in VFW A VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a win antry was done by the student listed.	ner of one of the top net		



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest

An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canyas entries on a stretcher frame or canyas board. Other entries if matted must be matted in white.
 Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Do not frame art.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", not including mat larger than 18" in any direction.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- If the American Flag is used, it <u>DOES NOT</u> need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or numbers of stars and stripes.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest application
- Entry will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.
- Coloring Sheets, digital art, photography and jewelry are NOT accepted.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades K-B who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- · Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 15 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner.

Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card Second place: \$50 gift card Third place: \$25 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Fatsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@eficustiony ord

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- April 15: One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- July: Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form.
- August: First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- September: Art will be returned to address on entry form.

A Singing Program for the Auxiliary!!!!

Entrants sing the National Anthem

Might be a new way of Connecting with the Youth!

		Banner
Althor Action	ווזגנומג	CALL THE
see print or complete fillable form at viwa.	infliary.org	
	Age	3;
City:	State:	Zip:
	Phone:	
	Grad	fe:
	City:	Contest Entry Form see print or complete fillable form at visualitiery org must be submitted with the video entry at all levels of judging. Age City: Phone: Grat



Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest
A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner

BEDILLET COLFER DIFORM PROVIDE DILLET

Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value.

Contest Rules

- Video of contestant's solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner must be recorded between July 1 and March 31.
- One entry per contestant.
- Student shall state name, age and grade level prior to vocal performance.
- · Student may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- . Student may sing in the arrangement and genre of their choice.
- . Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring participating VFW Auxiliary by March 31.
- . Student may NOT change the words. Student may NOT lip sync.
- · Video must be a recorded live unedited version.
- Complete and sign contest entry form. Parent/Guardian signature required on entry form.
- Video must be saved on YouTube and submitted with completed entry form to a VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Contest Eligibility

- Open to students in grades K-12 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 20 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! students may
 enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a
 previous National winner.

National Awards

Grades K-8

First place: \$500 gift card

Second place: \$300 gift card Third place: \$200 gift card

Grades 9-12

First place: \$500 gift card Second place: \$300 gift card Third place: \$200 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected or poor-quality video entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email into the unit involved in the contact in

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- April 15: One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- . July: Students will be notified of entry status via the email address provided on the entry form.

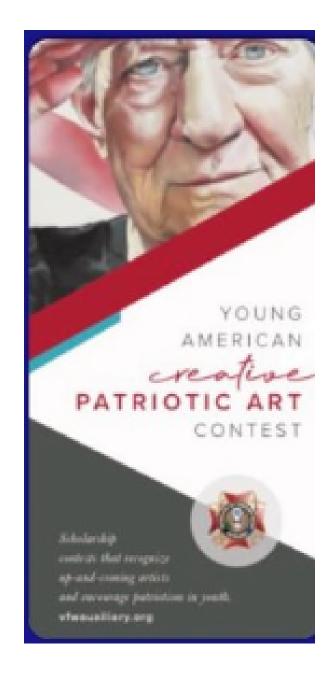
 August: First through third place winners named in each of the two grade divisions on VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters social media pages and shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest 2-Dimensional Art 9 – 12 Grade

- Two-dimensional art must be on canvas or paper. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media taught may be used.
- · Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if
 matted, must be matted in white. Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back
 with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.
- · Complete entry form and attach to back of entry.
- Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

What are the Scholarship Contest Deadlines?

- March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary.*
- April 15: VFW Auxiliary winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.*
- May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.*



Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest 3-Dimensional Art 9 – 12 Grade

What are the Scholarship Submission Requirements?

- Three-dimensional art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.
- Pieces should be no larger than 18" in any direction.
- · Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.
- Complete entry form and submit with entry.
- Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

What are the Scholarship Contest Deadlines?

- March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary.*
- April 15: VFW Auxiliary winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.*
- May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.*



Future Council of Administration Meetings for 2023-2024

Fall Council of Administration

September 22-23, 2023 Oasis, Springfield, MO

Winter Council of Administration Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen & Teacher Awards

February 9-10, 2024 Stoney Creek, Columbia, MO

State Convention

June 6-9, 2024 Oasis, Springfield, MO

2023 - 2024 12th District Missouri Meeting Schedule

Note, All District Meetings will begin as a Joint Session with the Auxiliary. The July will start as a Joint School of Instruction for Shared Information. Lunch, then retire to conclude respective Meetings and Training. The December Meeting will begin with the Joint Opening and the VOD / PP / Teacher Banquet, the Awards, then Respective Meetings (Only Required detail for this Meeting)

Date	Town Location / Post #	Time	Notes
Sat 15 July 2023	Overland / St Ann Post 3944	12:00 AM	District Meeting
	10815 Midland Blvd, Overland, MO		School of Instruction
Sat 14 Oct 2023	Lemay Post 4223 215 Military Rd St Louis, Mo. 63125	12:00 PM	District Meeting
Sat 9 Dec 2023 Special Meeting	Soldiers Memorial 1315 Chestnut St St Louis, Mo 63103	11:00 AM	Dept Cdr and Dept Ladies Aux President Requested, VOD PP Teacher Awards Banquet
Sat 17 Feb 2024	Ballwin Post 6274 115 Mimosa Lane Ballwin, Mo. 63011	12:00 PM	District Meeting
Sat 13 Ap 2024	Florissant Post 4105 410 Rue St Francois St Florissant, Mo. 63031	12:00 PM	District Convention

Dates and Times Subject to Change. Notice Will Be Given Appropriately

District 12 Missouri Officer Contact List 2023 – 2024

	District		oscur. Omice	Cotact E	J. LUL			
Position	Name	Post	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email
Commander	Tony Laprocina	4105	125 St Antoine	Florissant	n	63031	314 412 3049	tony.laprocina@hartwiginc.com
				For Official VFW E	Business			cdrdist12@movfw.org
Sr Vice Cdr	Ron Scanlon	4105	1370 Thrush Ln	Florissant	MO	63033	314 921 2241	scaldaman@yahoo.com
				For Official VFW E	Business			Svc@vfwmodist12.org
Membersh	nip"	"	"	"		"	n	
Jr Vice Cdr	Gerome E Cummins	2365	14438 Rockypoint Dr	Florissant	MO	63034	314 412 5053	geromec2000@yahoo.com
				For All Official VF	W Buiness O	nly		Jvc@vfwmodist12.org
Buddy Pop	ру"		"	"	"	"	n	
Community Activ	ity"		m .			"	n n	
Inspector								
				For All Official VF	W Buiness O	nly		Inspector@vfwmodist12>org
Quartermaster	Roger Allison	3500	6450 Kinsey Place	St Louis	MO	63109	314 397 5661	ralli1054@yahoo.com
				For All Official VF	W Buiness O	nly		qmdist12@movfw.org
Chief of Staff								
				For All Official VF	W Buiness O	nly		COS@vfwmodist12.org
Adjutant	Chris Weber	5468	956 Center Ave	Pacfic	MO	63069	314 288 9703	vfwcweber@yahoo.com
				For All Official VF	W Buiness O	nly		adjdist12@movfw.org
Judge Advoca	te Chris Weber	5468	956 Center Ave	Pacific	MO	63069	314 288 9703	vfwcweber@yahoo.com
Veterans and Military Suppo	ort "		n n		"	"	n n	n .
Americanis				"		"		
Voice of Democra	cy "			"		"		
Patriots P	en "			"			"	
Webmast	er "		n n	"		"		· ·
Honor Tea	m Chris Weber	5468	956 Center Ave	Pacfic	MO	63069	314 288 9703	vfwcweber@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Deborah Halter	3500	6450 Kinsey Place	St Louis	MO	63109	314 397 5662	dihalter@gmail.com
•				For All Official VF	W Buiness O	nly		Surgeon@vfwmodist12.org
National Home	Deborah Halter	3500	6450 Kinsey Place	St Louis	MO	63109	314 397 5662	dihalter@gmail.com
Surgeon	James McKay	2365	8600 Elmore Ct	St Louis	MO	63132	314 766 2930	mckay964@gmail.com
Veteran Service Officer	Mitch Mitchem	6274	1237 Wissman Dr	Manchester	MO	63021	636 394 8162	mifs!aol.com
				For Official VFW E	Business Onl	v		VSIO@vfwmodist12.org
1 Year Trustee	Steve Arthur	4105	1295 Fuxrun Dr	Florissant	МО	63033	314 660 7077	sparthur59@gmail.com
2 Year Trustee	Joseph Olson	5468	222 Ruth Dr	Pacific	MO	63069	636 555 2414	josel.olson@sbcglobal.net
3 Year Trustee	Cerebia Epps	2365	12295 Space Dr	Florissant	MO	63033	314 971 2572	cerebia.epps@sbcglobal.net
Pup Tent 12 Seam Squirrel	Micah DeCamp	3944	10257 Canter Way	St Louis	MO	63114	314 562 7646	micah.decamo@gmail.com
Student Veterans	r							

POW/MIA
Officer of the Day
Employment / Homeless Veteran
Hospitality Room
State Scouting Team
VFW Riders
Jefferson Barracks Decorations

Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



Go Forth and have a SUCCESSFUL YEAR!