



How Do I Get My Students Involved?

To encourage as many students to participate as possible, the VFW provides a number of ways to enter.

DIRECT STUDENT ENTRY: Students can enter directly by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay and (in the case of the Voice of Democracy their recording) to a local VFW Post. The local VFW Post's number can be obtained from the white pages of your local phone directory or by calling the VFW National Programs office during normal business hours at (816) 968-1117. Entry forms and instructions can be obtained by calling the same number or can be downloaded from the VFW national Web site at www.vfw.org.

PATRIOTIC PROJECT: Teachers/youth leaders - you may obtain student entry forms in the manner indicated above. You may then select from the following options:

Encourage your students to write an essay or a broadcast script on this year's theme.

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8) 300-400 word essay. Use the competition as a patriotic assignment and encourage the best single essay from each fifteen students to complete the entry form and forward it, along with the essay, to the local VFW Post competition.

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12) write a broadcast script on the annual theme available online at www.vfw.org or by calling (816) 968-1117. Again, use the competition as an essay contest and encourage the best single essay from each fifteen students to record their essay, complete the entry form and forward it, with the recording and typed script, to the local VFW Post competition.

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION	
CONTACT:	_____
PHONE:	_____
BEST TIME TO CALL:	_____
ALTERNATE CONTACT:	_____
PHONE:	_____
BEST TIME TO CALL:	_____



TARGET®

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EMBLEM AND SUPPLY ORDER NO. 4460



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS



How to Help Your Kids Get a Head Start on Their Future

An Open Letter to Teachers and Youth Leaders:

Thank you for the time, effort and commitment you invest each year in America's young people. Because of you, our nation continues to produce scholars, dreamers and leaders who benefit the entire world. We, the nearly 3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Ladies Auxiliary share your commitment to America's youth. Each year, the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary provide millions of dollars worth of awards, U.S. Savings bonds and college scholarships to students across the U.S. and overseas. The purpose of these awards is to encourage personal growth and foster a greater understanding and appreciation for America, its history and values. This brochure is provided to acquaint and equip you to use the VFW's programs to benefit those young lives you touch each day. Again, thank you for all you do. If we can serve you in any way, please contact me directly.

*Sincerely,
Steve Van Buskirk
National Director of VFW Programs
svanbuskirk@vfw.org*

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen provides 6th, 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards are given at the local, district, and state levels. The state winners compete for \$74,500 in U.S. Savings bonds at the national level. The national winner receives a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. where they tour the city and are honored at the VFW/Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference. **Deadline for entries is Nov. 1.**



Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1946. The Veterans of Foreign Wars became a national sponsor in the late 1950's and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. Many notables have participated in the Voice of Democracy including journalist Charles Kuralt, Miss America Anita Bryant and former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record a broadcast script on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2.5 million in college scholarships and incentives. State winners receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. during the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference in March to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$146,000 in scholarships – first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship. **Deadline for entries is Nov. 1.**

Teacher of the Year Program

Each year three exceptional teachers are recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics — at least half of the school day in a classroom environment — and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively. The VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients are selected from entries submitted by local VFW Posts in every state and overseas.

The VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards include the following items:

- A national \$1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade teachers for professional development expenses.
- \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school.
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school.
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Community Service Conference in Washington, D.C. Teachers who win first-place in each category will be invited to conduct a workshop at the conference.

Nomination must be received by November 1, by a local VFW Post. For additional information about our program please refer to our website www.vfw.org. Simply go to Programs, then Citizenship Education, then click on Teacher of the Year Award.