

Youth Activities
Bulletin # 2

Hey, all of you crazy kids! I hope all is well with you.

I am having multiple surgeries in the next month so I wanted to get this out early because I won't be able to type for a while.

I want to touch on a few things.

1. Please remember that National will not accept any Illustrating America art submissions unless the student's information is attached to the back of the art. I also expressed my concern over this, so PLEASE make sure the information is written on the back of the art so that it doesn't get lost or it can not be accepted and that would be sad.

Also, please remember, do NOT mail art to Headquarters. Please send it to me at my address.

Joan Murphy-Nihart
311 S. 10th St.
Montesano WA 98563.

2. Please refer to the National Program Book regarding working with Youth. We are here to mold our future leaders so we must set an example.

3. While Get Excited for the Red White and Blue has been omitted from the National Program, if your Auxiliary still would like to promote it - that is up to you. Last year, my little Auxiliary got 7 submissions. Never discourage a child from being patriotic!

4. I would love to see how you are engaging Youth in your Post and Aux. Please don't wait until the end of the year to share. We are here to learn from one another so share your activities with us all! I will be reactivating the Dept. Youth Activities Facebook Page so we can all share! Yahoo!

5. More than anything, have fun!!! Enjoy our young people, learn from them, and mentor them. Life goes both ways, we have so much to learn

from each other. Try to see the world through their eyes. Life has changed so much in the past few years and we need to keep up with the world as it has changed and the best way to do that is through our Youth ... especially if you need to know how to work your new microwave, printer, phone, etc.
lol

Until next time
Have fun and live life,
Joan Murphy-Nihart
Youth Activities Chairman
PDP 2022-2023



VFW Auxiliary National

Illustrating America Art Contest

An art contest for eligible students in grades K-8

2024-2025

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades K-8 by the March 31 deadline 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.

Contest Rules

- Students name, age and grade level must be printed on the back of art submission.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Do not frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", **INCLUDING** mat.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it **DOES NOT** need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or numbers of stars and stripes.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with art entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography and are **NOT** accepted.

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. 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 info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

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



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PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE
Incomplete and/or illegible forms will disqualify the entrant

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 School Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Description of art entry: _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____
 Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____
 Parent/Guardian signature: *

**I hereby grant permission of the artwork by the student listed above to be published in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner of one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the student listed above.*

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected 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.

Sponsoring/Participating VFW Auxiliary Contact or VFW Auxiliary Department Contact information:

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
 Contact email: _____

To avoid entrant disqualification

This section to be filled out completely and correctly by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winners.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of: _____

Please check the appropriate grade division.

This first-place entry is for: **Grade K-2** _____ **OR** **Grade 3-5** _____ **OR** **Grade 6-8** _____

March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: One winner from each grade division in each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary District (optional) then Department (state) for judging.

Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: _____

Artwork is property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

Department President, Secretary or Treasurer verification signature: _____

May 5: Final Level - Department winning entries in each grade division must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5 or they will be disqualified.

July/August: Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winners in each grade division named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and may be displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

September: All art will be returned to address on entry form.