

Youth Activities
2025-2026
Department of Washington
Chairman
Debbie Bowling
Bulletin #2

Happy fall everyone- it is hard to believe it is already in the middle of November, with Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner. In this bulletin I am doing a brief overview. My main focus being on the “Illustrating Art Contest,” for now it the time to get those “fires burning” and get our youth excited for it.

Sponsoring and working with Youth Groups: The Youth Activities Program offers a great opportunity for Auxiliaries to sponsor youth groups and get young folks involved in different projects that support and honor veterans, service members & their families. When youth work alongside our Auxiliaries, it can ignite an interest and lead to new members into your auxiliaries.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations: Do you have youth who are making a difference? There are so many ways our youth can support our veterans. Whether it is a Veteran in their family, a neighbor, or just someone they met. This Citation is a wonderful way for auxiliaries to honor youth groups for their service to veterans, service members, and their families.

Patriotic Youth Award: This award is designed to recognize individual youth for their Patriotism and/or support.

Reading Buddies: Did you know any auxiliary member can be a “Reading Buddy”? All you need to do is sit and listen to a child read. Check with your local schools and libraries. You can use the book list in Malta and even donate a few books.

Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates: There are new certificates to use to show our youth that their good deeds do not go unnoticed. Those who go out of their way to be kind and helpful. Talk to your local schools and after school programs if they have students who stand out.

VFW Auxiliary Illustrating Art Contest: It is a patriotic art contest for elementary and middle school students in grades K-8th. It encourages artistic expression and creativity. It is fun to see how our youth of today view our world.

- Participants can win awards in various grade division
- Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique
- Contest will consist of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8th
- Entries are due to **Auxiliaries by March 31st, 2026**
- **First place winner** from each grade division is due to me by **April 15th, 2026** (please plan accordingly- we DO NOT want students to miss out, they work very hard on their entries.)
- It is required to have the students name, age, and grade level to be written on the back of every art entry

I encourage your auxiliaries to use the youth groups to help promote this contest, if you are not working with a youth group this is a great opportunity.

If you have reached the end, thank you for taking the time to read my long bulletin. I will be at Mid-Winter Conference and if by chance you have received any Illustrating Youth Art, please wrap it up and bring it, there will be a little thank-you gift for those who do. Looking forward to seeing you there.

All materials and resources can be found in Malta or at vfwauxwa.org

Fair Winds & Following Seas,

Debbie Bowling
17035 153rd St se
Monroe, WA 98272
(425)737-3595
Debbieb85@icloud.com

Children are naturally creative. It is our job to give them the freedom,
Materials and space to let their creativity blossom to its full potential.

~Jean Van't Hul~