



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Official Rules and Eligibility 2026-2027

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

- First place - \$15,000
- Second place - \$7,500
- Third place - \$4,500
- Fourth place - \$4,000
- Fifth place and Sixth place - \$1,500
- Seventh place through Tenth place - \$1,000
- Eleventh place - \$750
- Twelfth place through Twenty-third place - \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school 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 resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older GED and adult education students are not eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests on the national level are not eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be original and created by the student, copying and tracing existing works is prohibited.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper, cardboard or foamboard.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, watercolor, oil, chalk, charcoal, ink, marker, pencil, mixed or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art, AI and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible artist statement explaining the work and thematic relevance. 250 words or less.
- Include one photo of completed work of art.
- Student name on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Entry Form 2026-2027

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____

Media used: _____

Source: _____

To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I certify that I have read the foregoing Official Rules and Eligibility (**page 1**) and fully understand and agree to the contents.

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published on the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

*VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Name: _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely **by VFW Auxiliary** at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries from the **Department President**.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Aux. Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Aux. verification signature: _____ Date: _____

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

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Aux. VFW Aux. due to VFW Aux. District judging.

Authorized VFW Aux. District verification signature: _____ Date: _____

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

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Aux. or optional VFW Aux. District judging due to the VFW Aux. Department judging.

VFW Aux. Department President signature: _____ Date: _____

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

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Aux. Department must be received at VFW Aux. National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Aux. National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Aux. National Convention.

August/September: Returning process begins. All art entries received at VFW Aux. National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

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