



Youth Activities Program

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The VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Program empowers young people to explore patriotism, leadership, and community service through creative, hands-on experiences. We work to inspire the next generation to honor veterans, support their communities, and discover the pride that comes from giving back.

Lending Library

Start a lending library to bring books to children in your community, especially where no local libraries exist. Auxiliaries can create small libraries where kids can borrow books, placing them in **approved** locations such as outside the Post, community centers, and ballfields. You can purchase or build your library. Stock it using the Patriotism Through Literacy reading list.

Make sure you have a range of reading levels.

Tips for success:

- Take a book, share a book
- Host a youth reading event at your Post
- Ask Scouts, youth groups, or school clubs to help build and maintain the library
- Use #auxlendinglibrary to promote your project



Patriotism through Literacy

Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning.

- Volunteer to read a historical or creative nonfiction picture book to kids at your local library
- Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries
- Host a Read-A-Thon

R.A.P.

Recognizing youth for their **Random Acts of Patriotism** is simple and meaningful. Keep R.A.P. cards on hand to give out immediately when you witness a patriotic act.

Patriotic Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members, and their families. A fillable, printable version of the awards is available in MALTA>member resources>youth activities.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations

These citations are one way to recognize youth groups for their projects honoring veterans, service members, and/or their families. The citation is available in MALTA>Member Resources>Youth Activities

Involve Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs

Encourage involvement from an early age in all VFW auxiliary programs. Teach youth about VFW auxiliary efforts to respect and take pride in our country.

Project Examples:

- Marching in patriotic holiday parades.
- Help veterans, service members and their families with yard work or household repairs.
- Send cards or small gifts to the VFW National Home to support families.
- Plan a card/letter writing event to send mail to our troops overseas or veterans and VA facilities.

Illustrating America

Illustrating America is an art contest for K–8 students enrolled in public, private, parochial, or home schools who are U.S. citizens or nationals (foreign exchange students and those 16+ are not eligible). The contest has three grade groups: K–2, 3–5, and 6–8. Entries are judged on patriotic theme and technique.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Due dates have changed for the 2026-2027 program year. The new schedule is:

***December 15, 2026:** Entries due to sponsoring Auxiliary/Post

***January 1, 2027: (Optional)** 1st place winners in each grade division from participating Auxiliary/Post due to District for judging.

***January 15, 2027:** 1st place winners from each participating Auxiliary/Post due to the Department.

***January 31, 2027:** Department 1st place winners in each grade division must be received by National Headquarters.

For all contest rules please visit the National Website or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

National Awards for Auxiliaries: A citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

Department Awards: Auxiliary awards for the Youth Activities Program can be found on page 4.

DON'T FORGET THAT REPORTS ARE DUE BY THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH!!!

“Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay “Busy as a Bee working together for our Veterans”

