



Youth Activities
Phyllis P Walker, Chairman
Sponsoring and Working with
Youth Groups

Why do we Work with Youth

- The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities and veterans.
- We have a new generation of veterans who need the support of family, friends and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad.
- Today's youth are the future of our nation.

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage youth in any one of our Programs, including activities to *honor our veterans or assist our service members and their families.*

Patriotism through Literacy

How can I participate in Patriotism through Literacy?

- 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 and award small prizes (stickers, pins) for number of books or hours read.
- Run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors at your Post Home.
- Invite an author of historical fiction or creative nonfiction to do a book talk/signing in your area. Reading has many benefits, including improved grammar and writing skills, improved focus and concentration, and it helps children to understand and share the feelings of others; reading stretches our imagination.
- As Dr. Seuss said, "*Reading can take you places you have never been before.*"

Illustrating America

- Open to any student in grades K-8 who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Due Date to local Auxiliary is **March 31, 2025**.
- 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 intend to become a US citizen. Foreign exchange students and students 15 or older are ineligible.

Contest Rules

- 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.

It is REQUIRED for the student's name and grade to be written on the back of every art entry

Please be sure the entry form is correctly and completely filled out. Just a reminder - If the art entry is matted the matt is included in the art size. Can't wait to see all the entries!

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations

- The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way for Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families.
- The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available in MALTA → Member Resources → Youth Activities

Patriotic Youth Award

R. A. P. Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

- Children like to be told they are doing a good job. Praising a child can go a long way and it helps boost their confidence. When a child shows Random Acts of Patriotism, recognize them by giving them a card and explain to them why they are receiving it.
- Create a reward system for the cards, each card is worth so many points. The points can help them win books, a soda, a prize, candy and movie tickets.
- The Card template is located in MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities.

Placemats Project

This is an easy project to get your auxiliary involved with youth. Purchase placemats, stickers, coloring pencils, crayons.

Invite children from Post & Auxiliary members or work with a youth group.

Donate the finished placemats to a local nursing home or senior citizen lunch program.

Send in a report after the project is complete.

Toy Drive

Christmas Toy Drive

November 1-December 1, 2024

Bring an unwrapped toy to your District Meeting
OR

If your District is not meeting during this timeframe,
you can collect the toys and deliver to an
organization in your local area in need.

Send to the Youth Activities Chairman a report with
the cost of the toy(s) donated.

Project Examples

- Visiting and volunteering in VA and non-VA facilities.
- Raising funds for a community veterans memorial.
- Marching in patriotic holiday parades.
- Volunteering to help veterans and service members and their families with yard work or household repairs.
- Sending cards or small gifts to the VFW National Home to support families.
- Plan a card and letter-writing campaign in local schools to send mail to our troops overseas or veterans in VA facilities.
- Organizing assembly, collection and delivery of care packages for troops.
- Teaching computer skills to veterans.

Youth Group Examples for VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship

- **Make Your Auxiliary Accessible to Today's Youth**
- It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world.
- Social media has teaching and information tools that have natural collaborative elements allowing our youth to view and comment on each other's activities.
- They are tweeting on Twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram and subscribing to YouTube channels.
- If you don't know what any of this is – LEARN.

Popular Social Media Network

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn |
YouTube | Pinterest | Instagram
Snapchat

Get online and see what's new!

Visit MALTA Member Resources for:
Publicity Tips
Social Media Guidelines
and other helpful information

Involve Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs

- Youth play such an important role in our future.
- Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary Programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans.
- Teach youth about Auxiliary efforts to:
 - Respect and take pride in our country.
 - Serve hospitalized veterans.
 - Elect leaders who appreciate our military.
 - Pass legislation that secures benefits for our veterans.

And many other worthy efforts!

Youth Activities

- Please remember to put your Auxiliary Name, Number and District on your report.
- If you have questions feel free to contact me at Email: phyllispwalker3019@gmail.com or Telephone: 585-571-4506

REPORT, REPORT!!!!