



Patriot's Pen Rules and Eligibility

WHO CAN ENTER

The Patriot's Pen program is open to students in grades 6-8 (on the October 31 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

HOW TO ENTER

Download and complete the Patriot's Pen entry form and brochure.

Essays must be no less than 300 words and cannot exceed 400 words. They should be submitted to the VFW Post, along with the completed Patriot's Pen entry form no later than the October 31 deadline.

Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points. You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points. Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points. Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

HELP YOUR KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THEIR FUTURE

To encourage as many students as possible to participate, the VFW provides a number of ways to enter.

Submitting Student Entries

Students can enter directly by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay (and in the case of Voice of Democracy, their recording) to a local participating VFW Post.

Your local VFW Post's contact information can be obtained at vfw.org/FindaPost or by calling the VFW National Programs office during normal business hours at 816.756.3390. Entry forms and instructions can be downloaded from the VFW website vfw.org/VOD.

PATRIOTIC PROJECTS

Teachers and youth leaders may obtain student entry forms in the manner indicated above. You may then select from the following options:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

Write a 300-400 word essay on the annual theme available online at vfw.org/patriotspen or by calling 816.756.3390. Use the competition as a patriotic assignment and encourage the students with the best essays to complete the entry form and forward those, along with the essay, to the local VFW Post competition.

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

Write an essay on the annual theme available online at vfw.org/VOD or by calling 816.756.3390. Again, use the competition as an essay contest and encourage the students with the best essays to record their essays, complete the entry form and forward them, with the recording and typed essay, to the local VFW Post competition.



Local VFW Post Information

LEWISVILLE POST 9168
997 TX 121 BUS
LEWISVILLE, TX 75057
(972) 436-5256
CONTACT: JERAMIE FALLER



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW Programs
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816.756.3390
youthscholarships@vfw.org
www.vfw.org


HELP YOUR KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THEIR FUTURE



An Open Letter to Teachers and Youth Leaders:

Thank you for the time, effort and commitment you invest each year in America's young people. Because of you, our nation continues to produce scholars, dreamers and leaders who benefit the entire world. We, the nearly 1.6 million members of the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary share your commitment to America's youth. Each year, we provide millions of dollars worth of awards and college scholarships to students across the U.S. and overseas. The purpose of these awards is to encourage personal growth and foster a greater understanding and appreciation for America, its history and values. This brochure is provided to acquaint you with the VFW's programs that benefit those young lives you touch each day. Again, thank you for all you do. If we can serve you in any way, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,


Lynn W. Rolf, III
Director, VFW Programs
lrolf@vfw.org



Patriots Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen provides 6th, 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Awards can be given at the local, district and state levels. The state winners compete for \$55,000 in awards at the national level. The first-place national winner receives a \$5,000 award and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., where they tour the city. **The entry deadline is October 31.**

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1947. The VFW became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. Many notables have participated in Voice of Democracy including journalist Charles Kuralt, Miss America Anita Bryant and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record an essay on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2 million in college scholarships and incentives. State winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$154,000 in scholarships - first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship. **Deadline is October 31.**

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Program

Each year three exceptional teachers are recognized by the VFW for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top certified/licensed elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach and promote America's history, traditions and citizenship education effectively. The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients are selected from entries submitted to local VFW Posts in every state and overseas.

The awards include the following items:

- A national \$1,000 Past National CIC John Smart award for the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 grade teachers for professional development expenses
- \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention

Nomination must be submitted to a local VFW Post by October 31. Additional information about our program please refer to our website at vfw.org.