

Youth
January 2026

“Tell me about your picture”

If a youth can draw a picture- they can put it into words.

Illustrating America, the VFW Auxiliary Youth Patriotic Art Contest, is in full swing. [Illustrating-America-Art-Contest-25-26.pdf](#) Open to Youth in grades K – 8, art contests between K – 2, 3 – 5, 6 – 8th grades, due to the local VFW Auxiliary by March 31st.

When Illustrating America was introduced in 2017, it was the same year the Family Freedom Festival was introduced. Our Auxiliary used Illustrating America as one of the many Youth activities and used the Patriot’s Pen theme that year “What makes America Great to You?” to invite children to color a picture. Lots of beautiful refrigerator art was shared. After a LONG Independence Day/Family Freedom Day celebration the Youth colorings were collected. One, in particular, will forever be a favorite. An Auxiliary Member’s granddaughter had colored a “Patriotic Chicken”. When “grandma” was asked to tell me about the picture, she looked and laughed wholeheartedly, “She loves her chickens. It is a Patriotic Chicken”.

Staples that year also held a back-to-school for students and Teachers. It was an opportunity to introduce Illustrating America by having a coloring booth in front of the store and asking, “What Makes America Great to You?” allowing a segway into how the VFW Programs neatly fit into community and education including Scholarship and Teacher of the Year opportunities.

At a membership table, a Buddy Poppy Drive, taking pictures from Children into a Hospital setting, working with Scouts, the School Fair opportunities exist where you make them. Looking forward to Art entries from Arizona Youth.