

Irene Nowacki

Scholarships Chairman

Now that we are all coming out of our sugar comas from all that Halloween candy, hopefully you have all had the opportunity to hear some of your applicants' speeches and essays for VOD & PP. Are you planning to have an awards ceremony, dinner or celebration for those that were chosen to go to the next level? Let's show these contest winners some appreciation and love. We sure do have some truly talented youth out there.

Speaking of talented youth, now is the time to push those art contests. Schools will be out for the upcoming holidays and what a better chance to take the time planning their project and getting a head start on it. [3-D Patriotic Art and Young American Creative Patriotic Art](#) contests will be due before you know it. The end of the year always flies by in the blink of an eye.

Deadlines for these two contests are **March 31st, 2026**, to the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging. Open to youth in grades 9-12. If you know of a crafty youth in your area, get them this information. Let's get a plethora of entries this year. We love to see the talent each and every year.

Since we are talking about scholarships, let us not forget our two, yes two, Department of Arizona scholarship and Grant. Auxiliary Merit Scholarship and Auxiliary Educational Grant.

The [Auxiliary Merit Scholarship](#) is open to a son, daughter, sister, brother, grandson/daughter or a member themselves of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. **Deadline for this is April 1st, 2026, and must be sent to the Scholarships Chairman.**

[Auxiliary Educational Grant](#) is open to current members of an Arizona VFW Auxiliary and must be 18 years of age or older. This is \$1000 to the first-place winner to help further their educational endeavors. **Deadline for this is April 1st, 2026, and must be sent to the Scholarships Chairman.**

Does this sound familiar? It should. There is another scholarship that is super special this year. The National Presidents special project, [Continuing Education Scholarship](#). Open to VFW Auxiliary members, their spouse and their children. This also awards the winners money to use for their education. There is 1 winner from each conference. The winner will get \$1250.00. Hopefully after this year the escrow will go up and they will receive more. Our goal this year is to do some fundraising for this scholarship to help raise the prize money. **Deadline for this is February 15, 2026.**

Information on all these Scholarships and contests is available on the department website www.vfwauxaz.org. Behind log in, click on Programs. There is a link to all the applications and the criteria for each under Scholarships.

Let's get out there and get as many applications handed out as possible. I would love to see a whole bunch of projects to judge. Good luck!

<https://vfwauxaz.org/uploads/documents/25-26Documents/25-26DeptAZMeritScholarshipApplication.pdf>

<https://vfwauxaz.org/uploads/documents/25-26Documents/25-26AZVFWAuxEducationalGrantApplication.pdf>

<https://vfwauxaz.org/uploads/documents/25-26Documents/25-26ContinuingEducationScholarshipapplication.pdf>

<https://vfwauxaz.org/uploads/documents/25-26Documents/25-262DPatrioticArtContest.pdf>

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