

Well, the time is getting closer to the end of the Program year. I hope everyone has had a good time with all of the programs. I have seen so many wonderful things on Facebook that the Auxiliaries and members have been doing every day. Please email me directly with the wonderful things you have done with our youth and include photos. [Bells\\_Whistles@hotmail.com](mailto:Bells_Whistles@hotmail.com)

Below is the criteria for the National Citation in the Youth program:

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

Entry form is required and available on the Department website, under the Youth Program [25-26YouthNationalAward.pdf](#)

VFW Auxiliaries must send the completed required entry form to the Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Also, please submit the Auxiliary's "Illustrating America" entries to either Kim Sloan or me. We want to see Patriotism through the eyes and art of our Youth! Please acknowledge and congratulate them for their efforts. Please do not wait until the last days to get them. The deadline for the Auxiliary to receive Illustrating America entries is March 31<sup>st</sup>. As Chairman, this leaves about 2 weeks to judge the entries and send the winners on to National.

Remember: NOW is the time to also complete credit for these Youth activities on the Auxiliary's Program Activity Report (PAR)

\*Work with a Youth Group

\*Award Youth supporting our Veterans Citation Award

\*Participate in Patriotism through Literacy

\*Promote Illustrating America Art Contest

\*Receive entries for Illustrating America Art Contest

\*HOST AN AWARD Ceremony to recognize the winners

"The Youth of today are the members of the future and what we show them now by promoting patriotism, being kind and active in our Veteran lives and communities, will make the difference to how we are portrayed by their families."

Shannon Stanley, National Youth Ambassador 25-26