



Youth Activities

The VFW Auxiliary works to teach our nation's youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, veterans, and service members. We engage youth in positive volunteer experiences and believe every young person can find a place to serve that will improve their lives, as well as the lives they touch.

The Youth Activities Program:

- Sponsors and works with youth groups such as:
 - Youth sports teams
 - Church youth groups
 - After-school programs
 - Youth-focused organizations
 - School clubs
 - Home-school associations
 - Youth community service groups
 - Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils
 - Service learning and civic departments in high schools and colleges
- [Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!](#)

An individual national anthem singing contest for youth in grades K-12 at the time of local entry, and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Youth learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" while expressing their creativity. The contest highlights the vocal talent of young people while promoting patriotism.

 - Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation, and entertainment value. Contestants must live or attend school in the state of the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. Entries are due to the local Auxiliaries by March 31st. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$2,000.

- [Illustrating America](#)
A patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings.
 - The contest consists of three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Entries are due to the local Auxiliaries by March 31st. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second, and third place in each grade division.
- [Patriotism through Literacy](#)
Introduces youth to historical figures and teaches them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning.
- [Recognizes Random Acts of Patriotism \(R.A.P.\)](#)
We encourage and reward patriotism through R.A.P. If a child is seen thanking a veteran, properly placing their hand on their heart during the Pledge of Allegiance or involved in some other activity that promotes patriotism, we suggest giving them a R.A.P. card and/or coin. It's a fun and unique way to engage children elementary age and younger!
- [Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans](#)
Youth groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families. Great traditions and citizenship start at an early age. We recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become a part of their daily lives.

Department Awards:

- *The 6-8 most Outstanding Youth Projects submitted by Auxiliaries will receive a plaque.
- *Every Auxiliary that submits a project will receive a citation.

National Awards:

- *Citation to every Auxiliary that promotes the Illustrating America. Auxiliaries must send a Project Report Form to the Department Chairman by March 31, 2021. Project Report Form is available on the Department webpage – vfwauxaz.org under Programs/Youth. Citation will be mailed directly from National Headquarters.
- *Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding promotion of Illustrating America.