

**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES and AUXILIARY**

JOINT HOSPITAL / VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT WORKSHOP

**Saturday, October 5, 2019
8:30 a.m. Registration -- 9:00 a.m. Workshop
Medway VFW Post #1526
123 Holliston Street
Medway, MA 02053**

The Hospital/Veterans & Family Support Workshop will be an informative session highlighting the programs at the VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Soldiers Homes. Representatives from each facility have been invited to speak about their particular issues and needs and how we can assist them in contributing to the welfare of the patients. Veterans Service Officers will also be addressing you and providing incite into benefits for our veterans and their families.

Christmas gifts decorated with Buddy Poppies will be collected for the representatives to take back to their facilities.

Homeless Shelter representatives will accept donations of new and used clothing. Shelters are in need of towels, coffee, and new undergarments. Remember, our Homeless Veterans are women, as well as men.

Continental breakfast will be served at a cost of \$8.00 per person. Please return the coupon below to State Secretary-Treasurer, Betty Rosa, if you are planning to attend. Checks are to be made out to: Dept. of MA VFW Aux. Deadline for tickets is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ tickets to the Hospital Workshop in Medway on October 5, 2019 at \$8.00 per ticket.

Name _____

Address _____

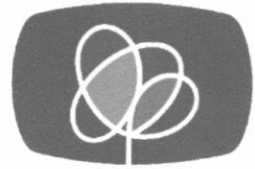
Post # _____ Auxiliary # _____ District # _____

Return this coupon to VFW Auxiliary State Secretary-Treasurer Betty Rosa, 93 Church Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719-3703. Make checks payable to VFW Aux. Dept. of MA.

DEADLINE FOR TICKETS IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019. EVERYONE MUST PRESENT A TO BE SERVED

Dept of Massachusetts

MA State VFW National Home Project: Massachusetts House Fund



Gifts to the Massachusetts House Fund are used to cover the annual costs of the home including utilities, lawn care and general maintenance as well as repairs to the home. A generator will be purchased out of the house fund.



To make a donation, make checks payable to:

Massachusetts VFW

And send to

VFW Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street

State House Suite 546-1

Boston, MA, 02133

Reference "National Home Mass House" in the memo line.

Direct any questions to the MA State VFW National Home Program Chair

Christine Tron: ctron@vfwma.org



CHRISTINE TRON
Program Chair
VFW National Home for Children
Department of Massachusetts
Veterans of Foreign Wars
ctron@vfwma.org



www.vfwnationalhome.org

Mission Statement

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families.

The VFW National Home for Children was born out of a desire to honor those who served our country by helping their families.

- Its early founders dreamed of a complete village for those families and children left behind.
- 1922: Amy Ross was instrumental in planting the seed for the VFW National Home, with the thought of helping thousands of veterans.
- A private businessman, Corey Spencer, donated the original 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan.
- The first family, Mrs. Pollett and her six children, arrived in March 1925. 93 plus years of serving military and veteran families this year!

The VFW National Home for Children is the only community like it in the nation.

- 629 total acres, including:
- 80 acres that is developed into a community of 42 single-family homes, a licensed child-care center, a Community Center, and other buildings,
- In addition, the property includes hiking trails, picnic areas, campsites, and a fishing pond,
- 501(C) 3 non profit,
- As in our very beginning- Operate on private donations-NO GOV'T FUNDING.

The National Home's Program offers:

- Case management services to help families set up a family plan and goals.
- Educational, recreations, and enrichment opportunities for residents and their children.
- Community resources and counseling provided as needed.
- Free housing and daycare.

Lanes of Eligibility to Apply to Program:

- Relatives of eligible members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.
- Veteran families; honorably discharged or still serving in the National Guard or Reserves.

1st generation of houses

- Built in the 1920's, 30's, 40's
- Michigan house
- Constructed in 1926 and is maintained by VFW Dept. of Michigan & its Auxiliary

2nd generation of houses

- Built in the 50's & 60's
- Florida house
- Constructed in 1959/maintained by VFW Dept. of Florida & its Auxiliary

3rd generation of houses

- Duplexes
- Built in the 2000's
- Last house built in 2010 (one of the duplexes)
- Stephen P. Yokich House
- Built by UAW Veterans Affairs Dept
- This is our wheelchair access

Licensed Day Care

- Constructed in 1945
- Licensed by State of MI
- No charge daycare for families
- 3 rooms: Infant/toddler/preschool

Summary

Families come to us with many needs. Our loving and caring community offers:

- Financial relief
- Support for the whole family
- Healing
- Caring focus on issues to strengthen families and individuals
- Stability

The National Home offers these military & veteran families HOPE for better futures.

To donate, make checks payable to: Massachusetts VFW

And send to: VFW Department of Massachusetts

24 Beacon Street

State House Suite 546-1

Boston, MA 02133

Reference "National Home Mass. House" in the memo line.



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
HELP HOPE HONOR

2019 - 2020 Theme
“What Makes America Great”
Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2019

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$30,000 Award

What Is The Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, What Makes America Great.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., Feb 29 - March 4, 2020, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$154,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) essay on an audio CD or a flash drive. One student per CD or flash drive. When burning your CD, make sure that "Create Audio CD" option (or similar) is selected so the program can properly convert your sound file and burn it to CD. After it has finished, be sure to play back your audio CD on a system other than your computer, such as a standard radio or car CD player, to verify that the conversion/burning process was successful. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or local VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN or biographical information.

2019-20 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age at time of D.C. Trip

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

First Name You'd Like on a Name Badge

Student Jacket Size
 (Adult Size Only)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian
 (required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

I Have Read and Understand the D.C. National Finals Rules
 (On Opposite Side)

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

2019 - 2020 Theme

"What Makes America Great"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2019

Official Rules for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C., February 29 - March 4, 2020, as a guest of the VFW National Organization.

I understand that state winners who do not attend as stated above will forfeit all rights to compete in the National Finals and will be replaced by their state's second place winner.

In the event my audio essay is selected for entry into the National Voice of Democracy Competition, I do hereby for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees; waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the several Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the VFW Voice of Democracy Competition and/or arising out of my travel to and during the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my tape, essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of students participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging and will attend the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Department Chairman's Signature _____

() _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____. Note: National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to make travel arrangements for them to be in Washington, D.C.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. State winners are invited to Washington, D.C., where their audio essays compete in the finals competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website www.vfw.org/find-a-post to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Oct. 31, 2019**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.



For assistance contact:

(816) 756-3390 ext. 6155

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

www.vfw.org

Revised 2/2019

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION :

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL : _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL : _____

2019 - 2020 Theme
“What Makes America Great”
Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2019

Patriotic Essay Writing Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What Is Patriot's Pen?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 120,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the winner and a parent or guardian.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

Big National Prizes

National awards total: \$55,000

Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000	7th: \$1,750
2nd: \$4,000	8-10th: \$1,500
3rd: \$3,500	11-12th: \$1,250
4th: \$2,750	13-23rd: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	24-25th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	26-53rd: \$500

The Internal Revenue Service requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This participating Post should be within your local area.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U. S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools can participate, too. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.)

2019-20 Official Student Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Entry Form Must Be Completed by All Contestants Please Print or Type Clearly

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Gender

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's Name and Email (if applicable)

Parent/Guardian's Name Phone/Email

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participation _____ No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Department Competition, and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner ☐ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on _____. Note: National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to notify them of their national placement.

PATRIOT'S PEN

2019 - 2020 Theme

"What Makes America Great"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2019

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition.
- Contact a local VFW Post within your local area and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2019. You can submit your essay and entry form electronically (by email) upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to VFW National directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the theme. A positive approach is recommended to express your viewpoint.

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.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2019-20 theme is

What Makes America Great.

What Are the Rules?

- Essay lengths: 300-400 typewritten words (+ or - 5 words max).
 - You must write your own essay.
 - All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated.) Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the

Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received.

The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

Deadline Information

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2019.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post."

If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and Email.

If you need assistance, please email us at the VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org.



For assistance contact:

816.756.3390 ext. 6155
youthscholarships@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

Revised 8/2019

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ **BEST TIME TO CALL :** _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ **BEST TIME TO CALL :** _____