

January 9, 2026

Art Departments Teachers,

The VFW Auxiliary is sponsoring and promoting the art contests for all grades. The deadlines for these contests is on or before March 31, 2026 to the local Auxiliary. All eligibility, rules, and deadlines will be strictly enforced. Copies of all enclosed information can be made. Below are some highlights for each contest. See forms for complete rules and eligibility.

Illustrating America grades K-8

Judged on patriotic theme & technique

Local, state & national awards. The National awards by grade level: k-2, 3-5, and 6-8 are 1st place \$100.00 gift card; 2nd place \$50.00 gift card; 3rd place \$25.00 gift card.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest grades 9-12

2 dimensional art
Mats may be used

Youth can enter both categories

Local, state & national awards. The National awards are 1st place \$15,000.00; 2nd place \$7,500.00; 3rd place \$3,500.00; 4th & 5th place \$1,500.00; 6th & 7th place \$1,000.00; 8th-19th place \$500.00.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest grades 9-12

Entry not larger than 18 inches in any direction

Not to weigh more than 5 pounds

At least 2 photos of completed art work

Local, state & national awards. The National awards are 1st place \$2,500.00; 2nd place \$1,500.00; 3rd place \$1,000.00; 4th place \$500.00.

Please contact me at 651-644-5640 or by email at jmopatrnny@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thanks in advance

Jean Opatrnny

VFW Auxiliary 6690

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

The National VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept; presentation and patriotism expressed; content and how it relates to patriotism; clarity of ideas; design technique; total impact of work.

ELIGIBILITY

- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students are not eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are not eligible.

CONTEST RULES

For contest rules, detailed information and entry form, visit:
<https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

- First place - \$15,000
- Second place - \$7,500
- Third place - \$3,500
- Fourth and Fifth place - \$1,500
- Sixth and Seventh place - \$1,000
- Eighth through Nineteenth place - \$500

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, university or vocational/technical school selected by the recipient upon receipt of verification. Scholarship funds may be held for a maximum of (5) five years from the date of high school graduation.

Students may enter both two-dimensional and three-dimensional contests in the same Program Year but must complete an entry form for each.

STUDENT ENTRY DEADLINE

MARCH 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for the first level of judging. Entries mailed directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be disqualified. Visit vfwauxiliary.org, Scholarships & Contests, Patriotic Art Contests to find out more about additional deadlines.

FIND AN AUXILIARY

To locate a VFW Auxiliary please use the locator link: vfwauxiliary.org/auxiliary-locator **Please note:** Not all VFW Auxiliaries participate in this contest.

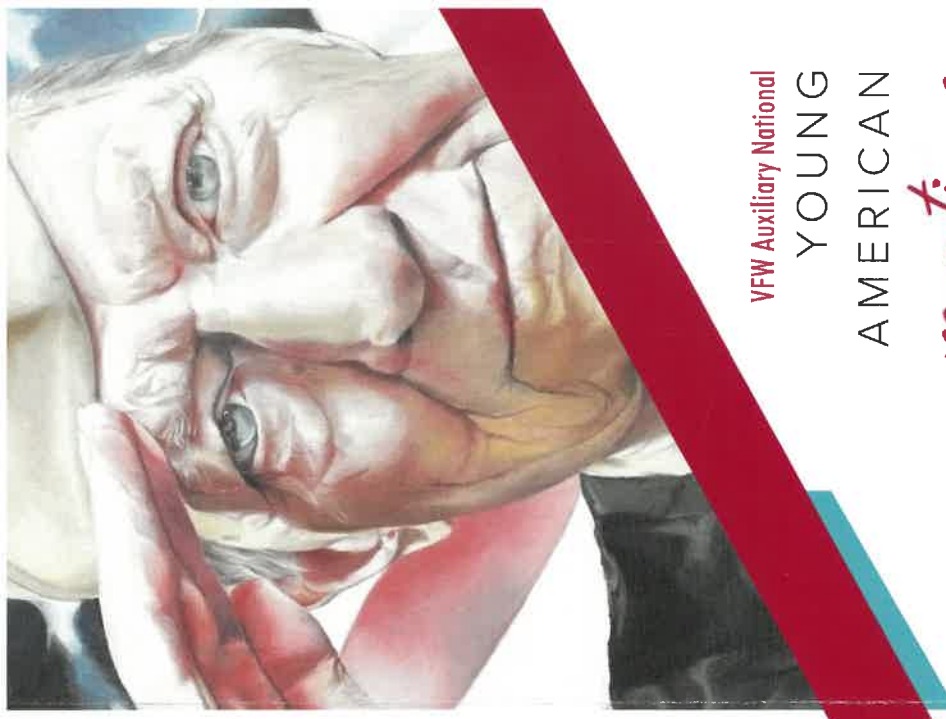
2-DIMENSIONAL

SPONSORING VFW AUXILIARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

VFW Auxiliary 66490
651-688-7408

Jean Opertny
651-644-5640

Revised 2/2025



VFW Auxiliary National
YOUNG
AMERICAN

creative
PATRIOTIC ART
CONTEST



Scholarship
contests that recognize
up-and-coming artists
and encourage patriotism in youth.
vfwauxiliary.org

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

The National VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept; presentation and patriotism expressed; content and how it relates to patriotism; clarity of ideas; design technique; total impact of work.

ELIGIBILITY

- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students are not eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are not eligible.

CONTEST RULES

For contest rules, detailed information and entry form, visit:
<https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500
Second place - \$1,500
Third place - \$1,000
Fourth place - \$500

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, university or vocational/technical school selected by the recipient upon receipt of verification. Scholarship funds may be held for a maximum of (5) five years from the date of high school graduation.

Students may enter both two-dimensional and three-dimensional contests in the same Program Year but must complete an entry form for each.

STUDENT ENTRY DEADLINE

MARCH 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for the first level of judging. Entries mailed directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be disqualified. Visit vfwauxiliary.org, Scholarships & Contests, Patriotic Art Contests to find out more about additional deadlines.

FIND AN AUXILIARY

To locate a VFW Auxiliary please use the locator link:
vfwauxiliary.org/auxiliary-locator **Please note:**
Not all VFW Auxiliaries participate in this contest.

3-DIMENSIONAL

SPONSORING VFW AUXILIARY
CONTACT INFORMATION:



VFW Auxiliary National 3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST



Scholarship contests that recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth.
vfwauxiliary.org



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500

Second place - \$1,500

Third place - \$1,000

Fourth place \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be three dimensional.
- Entry may **not** be larger than 18" in any direction.
- Entry may **not** weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Stone, clay, metal, wood, fabric, papier mâché, pottery, mixed and other media may be used.
- Digital art, photography, weapons, art generated by a 3-D printer and jewelry are **not** accepted.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible explanation of the steps taken to create the 3-Dimensional art entry and artist statement (250 words or less).
- Submit at least 2 photos of completed art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 School Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
 Media used: _____

Source: _____
 State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
 *Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National E-magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: JEAN DPATRNY Contact Phone: 651-644-5640
 Contact Email: JDOPATRNY@gmail.com Auxiliary No. 6690

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: VASATKA GOERS WWTI 6690 **Dept. of:** MIN

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
 Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.
 Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.
 Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

- First place - \$15,000
- Second place - \$7,500
- Third place - \$3,500
- Fourth place and Fifth place - \$1,500
- Sixth place and Seventh place - \$1,000
- Eighth place through Nineteenth place - \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, watercolor, oil, chalk, charcoal, ink, marker, pencil, mixed or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible artist statement (250 words or less).
- Student name on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 School Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
 Media used: _____

Source: _____
 State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National E-magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: JEAN OPATRNY Contact Phone: 651-644-5640
 Contact Email: jopatrnj@gmail.com Auxiliary No. 20690

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: VASATKA GOERS WVA 20690 **Dept. of:** MN

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America

2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this national art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

VFW Auxiliary National Level Awards

Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate
- Students in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America

Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type. Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
 School Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
 Media used: _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 *Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization. VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of the award.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: JEAN OPATRNY Contact Phone: 651-644-5640
 Contact email: jopatrnny@gmail.com Auxiliary No. 6690

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: VASATKA GOERS WHITE 6690 Dept. of: MN

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
 Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.
 Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.
 Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
 Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries in each grade division may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.