VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Contest
Illustrating America
Official Rules and Eligibility 2026-2027

VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this national art contest is designed to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through artistic expression. Entries will be judged on effort and the process of creation through elements like line, shape and color with focus on patriotic themes and techniques.

VFW Auxiliary National level awards

Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
First place: $100 gift card	First place: $100 gift card	First place: $100 gift card
Second place: $50 gift card	Second place: $50 gift card	Second place: $50 gift card
Third place: $25 gift card	Third place: $25 gift card	Third place: $25 gift card

New Deadline Date

Student entry is due to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

December 15, 2026

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or a VFW Auxiliary member to enter.
- Students in grades K-8 by **December 15** 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 are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contests on the National level 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 original and created by the student, copying and tracing existing works is prohibited.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- 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, cardboard or foamboard.
- 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.
- Crayons, paint, glitter, marker, pastel, pencil, watercolor, mixed or other media may be used.
- Coloring sheets, digital art, AI and photography are not accepted.
- If the American Flag is displayed in a manner that clearly identifies it as such, it **does not** need to adhere to the Federal Flag Code specifications regarding its colors and number of stars and stripes.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.

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

VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Contest
New Deadline Dates! Illustrating America
Entry Form 2026-2027

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 certify that I have read the foregoing Official Rules and Eligibility **(page 1)** and fully understand and agree to the contents.

*I hereby grant permission for my child's art and name to be published on the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for 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: jmopatrny@gmail.com VFW Aux. 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 from the **Department President.**

Participating Sponsoring VFW Aux. Name & No: _____ **Dept:** _____

December 15: Student entries due to participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
Authorized VFW Aux. 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.

January: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Aux. due to VFW Aux. 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.

January 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Aux. or optional VFW Aux. District judging due to the VFW Aux. Department judging.
VFW Aux. Department President 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.

January 31: First place winner from each VFW Aux. Department must be received at VFW Aux. National Headquarters for judging.

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

March/April: Returning process begins. All art entries received at VFW Aux. National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

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