

VFW Nebraska Genmail

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

As of 05/15/2020

May 15, 2020

The VFW Nebraska

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Department of Nebraska

PO Box 4552

Lincoln, NE 68504

VFW WEB SITE: [//vfwne.com/](http://vfwne.com/) email: johnl@vfwne.org

June 2020

7 NE VFW 2020 Raffle Drawing at Headquarters at 10:00 A.M.

20 State Convention in Seward, NE. (information enclosed)

30 Cut off for All State Commander & QM

30 Cut off for Top District Commander



Hope Everyone is doing well during these trying times!!

Take care everyone and hope to see you all soon!!

.....

News From the Commander!

Comrades Thought I should update you on what is going on in the Department. The Covid-19 virus has hit us all in different ways, the office has been on shortened hours and staff. All should be returning to normal in the near future if there is a normal anymore.

The decision was made to cancel the scheduled state convention on Jun 5-7, we felt like most folks wouldn't want to spend the night and didn't know if we could meet the minimums for the motel. The convention will now be a 1-day event on Saturday Jun 20th in Seward NE at the Civic Center, where we conduct training. We will begin at 0930 and it should only last 2-3 hours. We will conduct very little business as we are there for elections. After the new officers are sworn in there will be a short meeting to approve appointments and the budget for next year.

National has lowered All-American to 98% for membership for those of you that are close. I think that we can still make 100% now that restrictions are being lifted get out there and give it a try.

Joseph E Smith
Commander
Department of Nebraska

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, VFW
April 2019-2020 Year

GENERAL ORDER #2

1. Attention is directed to the 2020 National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure Section. 211 -- Suspension and Revocation of Charter. Actions by the Commander - in- Chief

2. Attention is directed Defunct Posts, Section 212 of the National Constitution and By-Laws, The Commander- in-Chief shall revoke a Post's Charter if such Post has less than (10) members.

3. Attention is directed to the National Constitution and By-Laws Section 213 -- Arrearage of Posts -- Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly bonded in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustee Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings (if applicable) District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

(Post Election Report forms are online or are mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete and return **the forms to Department and National Headquarters** immediately following the election of Post Officers) Manual of Procedure Section 217-- Election in April; Install in May; and take office in June.

(The Commander-in-Chief may suspend the charter of any Post not submitting a properly completed Report of Election of Officers for the new VFW year by June 1st of the new VFW year for a period of up to ninety (90) days.) This suspension will be automatically terminated should a properly prepared Report of Election of Officers be received at National Headquarters. At the end of the ninety (90) days, the Commander -in-Chief may cancel or revoke the charter of any Post not properly submitting a list of officers to National Headquarters.)

4. All members who have not paid their next years dues are urged to do so at once to maintain your continuous membership.

5. Attention is directed to the National Constitution and By-Laws Section 215-- Eligibility to Office, Section Paragraph 3 Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date shall forfeit his eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year.

6. Attention is directed to the National Constitution and By-Laws Section 216--Elected and appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees, and Section 217-- Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office.

7. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Manual of Procedure, Section 218.11.b (Duty of Trustees) Trustees Report of Audit, must be prepared in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ends March 31.

8. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure: . . . each District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District Officers . . . , such convention to be

held not less than ten (10) days or more than seventy five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

9. Sec. 416 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees

(a.) The elected officers of each District shall consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and three (3) trustees.

(b.) The District Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Service Officer and Inspector.

(c.) The District may elect or the District Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff or Officer of the Day if required by the District By-Laws.

(d.) The District Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the District or as may be required by District Bylaws.

(The District Commander retains authority to remove officers, committee chairmen and committees appointed by him at any time.)

Manual of Procedure Section 416: District officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant. Additionally, District Commanders, District Senior Vice Commanders, and District Junior Vice Commanders shall submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation to office. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within thirty (30) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited and the office declared vacant and the eligibility qualifications of such officer shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws. **(Installing officer must verify proof of eligibility in adjutant's file.)**

10. Attention is directed to the National Constitution and By-Laws Section 417--- (District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of The Manual of Procedure.)


11. The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. (Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of Buddy Poppies in their respective areas.) See Section 704-- Relief fund National By-Laws & Manual of Procedure.

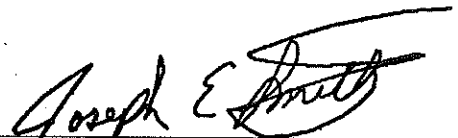
12. All posts that have Memorial Day Poppy distribution are urged to order as soon as possible, in order to assure receiving them by your distribution date.

13. The 99th Annual State Convention will be held in Seward, Nebraska at the The Community Center, June 20th, 2020.

14. All Post Commanders are advised that in accordance with National By-Laws (Sec. 203), no person who is a member of another post, other than a designated Department Representative, shall have any say in the post he's visiting, unless asked by the Post Commander.

15. All posts and districts who are preparing resolutions for the State Convention must be submitted by the Post or District Commander, and Post and District Adjutant, and signed by them and dated before the Resolution Committee will consider them. Resolutions not submitted properly will be disregarded. Miscellaneous resolutions must be submitted to Department Headquarters prior to **May 20th, 2020** to be considered at the State Convention.

Attest 
John R. Liebsack, State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Department of Nebraska, VFW

By Order Of 
Joseph Smith, State Commander
Department of Nebraska, VFW

This Date: 5/6/20

**Barry Caster for
3 year Convention
Corporation**

*I am here to serve you and
I am seasoned and
experienced. Vote for me!*



**VOTE PLEASE
FOR
JERRY CHLOPEK**



**SR. VICE COMMANDER
2020-2021
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

Vote for Kenneth Yount



What an amazing year it has been, it will truly be hard to live up to. A huge thank you to all those who have supported me before and after my election to Judge Advocate. It has been a welcome and needed reminder that I can continue to serve and the VFW will continue to be a passion for me no matter what position I am in. I have always said that “no one can do it all, but together we can accomplish anything”, this is never more evident than during this past year. I look forward to this next year and taking on the Chairman of the Youth Activities and whatever other positions I have the opportunity to fill.

**VOTE
GARY E BUSH SR.
STATE SURGEON
2020-2021**

I enjoyed serving by going thru the chairs the first time. Now I ask for your vote for a second chance to serve again.

Vote Gary E Bush Sr.



VFW Cancels Reno National Convention

The convention was scheduled for July 18-23, 2020

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 20, 2020) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars announced today its 121st VFW National Convention scheduled to be held in Reno, Nevada, this July has been officially cancelled.

Thousands of VFW and Auxiliary delegates were expected to gather to represent the organization's total membership of more than 1.6 million at the weeklong event.

The decision comes as public-health concerns and social-distancing mandates are expected to span into the summer months ahead. This year will mark the first in the organization's storied 121-year history where a national convention will not be held. The VFW Auxiliary has also cancelled its convention.

"We explored every effort to move forward with the convention in its current form, and the decision was not made lightly," explained William "Doc" Schmitz, national commander of the VFW. "But, the fact is the health and well-being of our members, partners and supporters remains our priority, and we will not put them at risk."

Pursuant to the organization's bylaws, the VFW National Council of Administration is responsible for administering the affairs and transacting the business of the organization in the intervals between conventions to include conducting an election of national officers.

Despite the cancellation of convention, the VFW remains fully operational in accepting and processing applications to all of its national support programs and maintains an active role in advocating for veterans' legislation. Further, VFW Posts across the nation have mobilized to lead many initiatives to bring relief and assistance to their local communities amid the pandemic.

"As veterans, we know best how to navigate times of uncertainty," said Schmitz. "Convention or not, we have a job to do and a solemn promise to keep to America's veterans, service members, and their families. We will ensure the needs of those who rely on the vital services we provide are met without interruption."

-vfw-

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally-chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS" than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

Media Contact: Randi K. Law, communications manager, rlaw@vfw.org

ANNUAL NEBRASKA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2020

September 4, 2020 (Friday)
Willow Lakes Golf Club

1PM Shotgun Start
12301 South 25th St., Bellevue NE

Willow Lakes is the only Robert Trent Jones designed course in Nebraska

Format: Four Person Texas Scramble

*Cost: (\$80.00) Per Person Money raised goes towards New Buses needed for the Veterans
Homes and VFW Scholarships

Entry fee includes: Golf/Golf Cart
FoodFlag Prizes**Door Prizes**

Questions or for reservations: call Joe Smith (402-661-9875)
Or email: vfwgolfhack@cox.net

Mailing address: Joe Smith
1416 Betz Rd
Bellevue, NE 68005

Sign up early: Entry Deadline 26 Aug 2020

Soft spikes or soft soled shoes only
Golf appropriate attire

Lunch will be served at the course before we tee off.

*AGF Holders (\$65.00, E1 – E4 \$75.00)

.....
Clip and Mail To: Joe Smith; 1416 Betz Rd; Bellevue, NE 68005
Make checks payable to: VFW Post 2280 (Memo VFW GOLF)

Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Entry fee enclosed: \$ _____ (\$80.00 per person, \$320.00 per team)(Tax deductible)

Total remitted \$ _____

(sports)



Omaha Student Awarded Top National VFW Scholarship

Kumar awarded first place, \$30,000 scholarship prize out of more than 51,000 entries

WASHINGTON (March 3, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce Shruthi Kumar, a senior at Marian High School in Omaha, Nebraska, was named first place national winner and recipient of the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship award in its 2019-2020 Voice of Democracy scholarship program.

The announcement was made during last night's Parade of Winners ceremony at the 2020 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., where Shruthi was presented with her \$30,000 award and [delivered her winning speech](#). VFW Post 1581 in Omaha, Nebraska, sponsored Shruthi.

“The more than \$200,000 awarded tonight makes a grand total of \$3 million presented at the national, state and local levels of our competitions, and I know will help ensure the doors of opportunity are opened wide for this talented group of young people,” said VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz.



Open to eligible high school students in grades 9 through 12, the VFW's annual Voice of Democracy audio-essay program requires entrants to write and record a three- to five-minute script on a democratic, patriotic theme. This year more than 51,000 high school students from across the world reflected on the theme “What Makes America Great,” with national finalists competing for their share of \$154,000 in scholarships and awards.

[Learn more about the Voice of Democracy program here.](#)

-vfw-

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally-chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

Media Contact: Randi K. Law, communications manager, rlaw@vfw.org

PHOTO CUTLINE: VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz and VFW Auxiliary President Peggy Haake present Voice of Democracy first place winner Shruthi Kumar (center) with her \$30,000 award.

National Council of Administration Meeting

March 2020

Larry M. Gerlt

1. The Life Member payout for the 20-21 Membership year will be
 - a. Plan ABC: \$10.50
 - b. Plan D: 11.52
 - c. Plan E: 23.82
2. Several Items dealing with VFW National Employee Retirement board were approved (appointment of members and term limits).
3. Wear of VFW New Logo by Non-members:



I briefed the outcome of our vote and ensured all council members were aware of my (and our) objections – if you haven't earned it, you don't wear it! State Commander Smith is coordinating with the other Department Commanders to see if we can muster the votes to overturn this injustice during the next council meeting at the National Convention in Reno.

4. VOD Parade of winners. A motion was tabled till the next council meeting that would do away with the Parade of Winners at the March Legislative Conference and put an end to the VOD Department Winners' trip to Washington DC. We will be discussing this further at our June State Convention.

2020-2021 Theme “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2020

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 57,000 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, **Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?**

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level.

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 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 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.

2020-21 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

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

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

2020 - 2021 Theme

“Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2020

Official Rules for Students Advancing to National Level

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.

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 _____.

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. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost 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 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, 2020. 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.

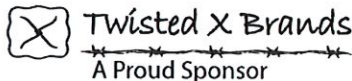
Content is worth 35 points:

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
vfw.org

Revised 3/2020

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

PATRIOT'S PEN



2020 - 2021 Theme "What is Patriotism to Me?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2020

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 138,000 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.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP) 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 and within your U.S. state of residence.

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.)

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, plns, 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

2020 - 2021 Theme

"What is Patriotism to Me?"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2020

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 within your state 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, 2020. 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 2020-21 theme is **What is Patriotism to Me?**

What Are the Rules?

- Essay length: 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, 2020.

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." 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) 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
vfw.org

Revised 3/2020

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____