



**TO: All Members**  
**FROM: Mario Richards State Commander**  
**RE: Council of Administration Meeting**

The First scheduled Department Council of Administration Meeting of the 2022 - 2023 VFW administrative year, will be held on MONDAY – JULY 25, 2022 at 7:00pm.

The meeting will be held at the Wheeler-Young **VFW Post 201 – 2295 Baldwin St. - Waterbury, CT.** Phone No: (203) 754-0738..

All Post Commanders are invited to attend this meeting **and bring any Post Officer or Member** who may wish to attend. Every VFW Member is welcome.

Any further membership awards for the 2021 – 2022 year will be given out at this Council Meeting.

If any State Officer, District Commander or State Chairman is unable to attend this meeting, please notify the State Adjutant at Department Headquarters at: (860) 616-2363

**Food will be available prior to the meeting starting at 6:00 pm.**

**Dress is casual slacks, with 3 button down sport shirt and VFW cap. NO Dungarees or shorts.**

Looking forward to seeing you on the 25th of July 2022.

Mario Richards

State Commander

OFFICIAL: For the Commander

*Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz*

Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz State Adjutant/Quartermaster

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**\*\* Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States\*\***



**DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL ORDER #1  
SERIES - 2022/2023**

1. Having been duly elected and installed as State Commander at the State Convention in Rocky Hill, I immediately assumed the duties of my office and shall endeavor to carry them out to the best of my ability. I thank the members of the Department of Connecticut for the confidence you have placed in me to serve in this high office.
2. The following Officers were elected or have been appointed by me to serve for the 2022/2023 term of office and shall be recognized accordingly:

*Sr. Vice Commander	Kenneth Tracy	(Post 4608)
*Jr. Vice Commander	Stanley Borusiewicz	(Post 1946)
*Adjutant/QM	Ronald Rusakiewicz	(Post 9460)
*Chaplain	Richard DiFederico	(Post 7330)
*Judge Advocate	Robert Bailey	(Post 10153)
*Surgeon	Rickey Samuels	(Post 10321)
*Chief of Staff	Joseph Beal	(Post 10201)
*Inspector	John Leblanc	(Post 1946)
*Past State Commander	Dominick Cortese	(Post 4608)
Color Guard Captain	Michael Montecalvo	(Post 6933)
*Cmdr. District One	John Kennedy	(Post 10201)
*Cmdr. District Two	Charles Pickett	(Post 12150)
*Cmdr. District Three	Lee Wilson	(Post 1926)
*Cmdr. District Four	David Nelson	(Post 4608)
*Cmdr. District Five	Daniel Matthews	(Post 296)
*Cmdr. District Six	Sheldon Potesak	(Post 9918)
* Members of the Department Council of Administration		

All other Officers and Committee Chairmen will be listed in the Department Directory.

3. The following Comrades have been appointed to serve as Delegates and Alternates to the Eastern Conference for 2022/2023

**THE DELEGATES ARE:**

Mario Richards - State Commander  
Kenneth Tracy - Sr. Vice Commander  
Stanley Borusiewicz - Jr. Vice Commander  
Ronald Rusakiewicz - State Adjutant/QM  
Robert Bailey - State Judge Advocate ECC

**THE ALTERNATES ARE:**

Joseph Beal, State COS  
John Kennedy - PSC  
Richard DiFederico - PSC  
Kenneth Hartline - PSC  
Tony Rendon - Legis Chmn

4. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers of the Posts and Districts. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year

5. **The State Commander has chosen two special projects this year. The first one is "The Reason to Ride" that raises money for Un-Met needs for local needy Veterans, and the second one is our VFW "Veterans and Military Support" program. Every post should participate, and send their donations to Department Headquarters. You may earmark the donation for for a specific program of the two.**
6. **MEMBERSHIP, Post Quartermasters should remit any post dues they receive directly to National via the internet if possible.**
7. **Smoking or vaping at any VFW meeting is not permitted.**
8. **It is the responsibility of each Post Commander to see that their Post is properly represented at District meetings and Department functions. Each Post has a minimum of 12 elected and appointed officers, and if the Post Commander is unable to attend then the Post Commander should assign one of them to attend a district meeting or department function. That would have a member from each post at every district meeting, without someone going every month, although they may.**
9. **The Commander-in-Chief has reminded that it is objectionable for anyone to consume alcoholic beverages at any VFW meeting.**
10. **Anyone wishing to invite The State Commander to a function, must send the request via e-mail or in writing to Department Headquarters, to insure there are no conflicting dates and to eliminate any double bookings. Please be sure that the time and date of the affair is on the request, along with the dress required. If the Commander is unavailable for your event, he will assign another chair officer or member of his staff to represent him.**
11. **It is the responsibility of the Post Commander to see that the post is properly bonded and that all post audits are done and sent to Department when completed and on time.**
12. **The Department sends out "snail" mail at the beginning of each month to all of the posts and officers. If you want a post flyer included in the mailing/s please have it in to department by the third week of the prior month.**
13. **Our website for the Department of Connecticut VFW and a web page for each District. The District Commanders will be responsible for keeping it up to date with the time and place of district meetings and district and auxiliary events and news. Anyone wanting something posted on your district page, please contact your District Commander. Lee will be sending out the information to the district commanders on how to access and post information to your page. Remember you cannot post any flyer for a fundraiser not a VFW Program. The District pages are at vfwct.org under ABOUT and I suggest you familiarize yourself with our website, if you haven't already. It contains a wealth of VFW information.**
15. **You are reminded that the National By-Laws provide that each Post shall register at least one delegate to the National Convention**

**16. The All American Dashboard at vfw.org will be an important part of post and district adjutants putting their program reports into it. There are instructions for its use and I encourage all of you to familiarize yourself with the system at vfw.org.**

**17. I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Kansas City MO,**

**By Order Of:**

**Mario Richards, State Commander**

**OFFICIAL:**

**Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster**

**OVER**



## Department of Connecticut Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States

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P.O. BOX 429 Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (860)616-2360 Fax: (860) 616-2364  
hqct@vfw.necoxmail.com vfwct.org

### URGENT AND IMPORTANT 2021-2022

#### DEPARTMENT SOLICITATION FOR ADS FOR THE CONVENTION AD BOOK FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

THE DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT VFW HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A PRIVATE CONCERN TO SOLICIT ADS FOR OUR CONVENTION AD BOOK THAT HELPS TO PAY FOR THE STATE CONVENTION. BECAUSE OF THAT, CONNECTICUT HAS THE LOWEST CONVENTION DELEGATE FEES IN THE COUNTRY.

OUR COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN US PERMISSION TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM. YOU MIGHT BE RECEIVING CALLS FROM YOUR LOCAL TOWN MERCHANTS AS TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THIS PROGRAM. WE WILL BE USING YOUR POST AS A REFERENCE.

I CANNOT IMPRESS UPON YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROGRAM, AND I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL CO-OPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT IN THIS VENTURE.

ALL POST MEMBERS AND ESPECIALLY EMPLOYEES THAT ANSWER THE POST PHONES, SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT THIS COMPANY, CONSULT TELE – COMMUNICATIONS, REPRESENTS OUR ORGANIZATION. WHEN INQUIRIES ARE MADE REGARDING THIS COMPANY AS BEING LEGITIMATE, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT: 860- 616- 2363 OR TO PASS ON OUR PHONE NUMBER/S.

WE TRUST YOU WILL POST THIS NOTICE IN YOUR POST HOME AND INFORM ALL OF YOUR OFFICERS AND THOSE THAT NEED TO KNOW ESPECIALLY YOUR BARTENDERS, (IF YOU HAVE A CANTEEN) THAT ANSWER THE POST PHONE. PLEASE INFORM THE MEMBERS OF YOUR AUXILIARY AS WELL.

NO VFW POST WILL BE SOLICITED BY OUR VENDOR; ALL REQUESTS FOR CONVENTION ADS FROM OUR POSTS AND AUXILIARIES WILL COME FROM DEPARTMENT. MONIES RECEIVED FROM OUR POSTS AND AUXILIARIES WILL GO SOLELY TO OUR DEPARTMENT. NO VFW MONEY WILL GO TO THE VENDOR.

WE WILL AGAIN THIS YEAR ASK OUR POSTS AND AUXILIARIES TO PURCHASE ADS IN OUR CONVENTION BOOK. (Starting in January). BY DOING SO, WE THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE ADS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME AT HEADQUARTERS AT: (860) 616-2363.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION,

RON RUSKO, STATE ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER



# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



## WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost).

## WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is March 1.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by April 1. The VFW Department Scouting chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by May 1.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext 6155.  
during normal business hours Monday through Friday or  
emailed to [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org).

## Official Entry Form

# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT  
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.**

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_ Scout Troop Number

## SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout/Venture Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

## UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Leader's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

## PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

# SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

### VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT CERTIFICATION IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT CDR.: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
  - A scout leader.
  - A community member.
  - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
  - In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** – submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost).

## WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6155, or email [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



# 2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

## 2022-2023 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition *Must Be Completed by All Contestants*

Name: First, M.I., Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Email

Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post *I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Teacher Award 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 teachers 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 (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dist # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our 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 will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees 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 Post winner, in each grade level, advances to District, if applicable, then 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](http://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 <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 [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).



# 2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

## What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

## Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

## Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

## How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit [vfw.org/Find-a-Post](http://vfw.org/Find-a-Post) for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

## 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, 2022. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

## What Are the Judging Criteria?

**Citizenship (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

**Innovation (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

**Resources (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

**Passion (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

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*If you have any questions, please call  
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or  
[tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org)*

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## Local VFW Post Information:

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Contact

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Phone

Best time to call

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Alternative Contact

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Phone

Best time to call

## 2022-2023 Theme

### “Why Is The Veteran Important?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

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 80,000 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, “Why Is The Veteran Important?”

#### 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 DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$156,000 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 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 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or 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](mailto: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.

#### Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the 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 VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. 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, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://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) 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](mailto: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, 2022. 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.

# 2022-2023 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

Jacket Size

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

## Participant Agreement 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, as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("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 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 Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to 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 audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

## I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

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.

## 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 Departments.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

For assistance contact:  
816.756.3390 ext. 6155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

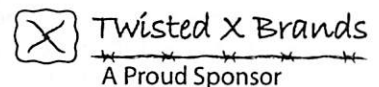
Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_





# PATRIOT'S PEN



2022-2023 Theme

**“My Pledge to Our Veterans.”**

**Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

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

## What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

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 84,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

## Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

## How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the 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 VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by 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 first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

## 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. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

## How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or

- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2022. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

## How Am I Judged?

**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 2022-2023 theme is:

**“My Pledge To Our Veterans.”**

## Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2022.

## Note:

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

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting 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](http://vfw.org/contactus) to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and Email.

**For assistance contact  
the VFW National Headquarters  
at 816.756.3390 ext. 6155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)**

# 2022-2023 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen 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 Essay Word Count

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

## What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- 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 the essay. The entry form is your essays 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).
- The essay must be 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 Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

*I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules*

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of 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 participants No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships 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 Departments.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

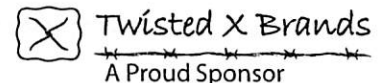
## Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

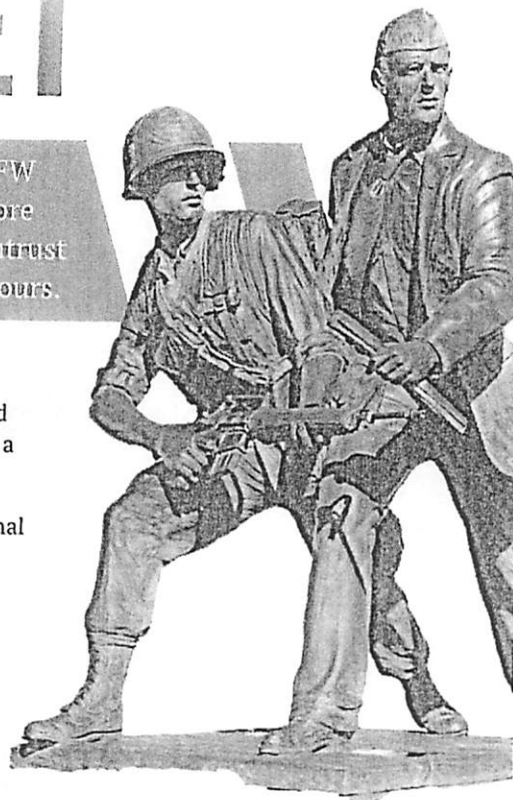
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_





# FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



## THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

*Educate* separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Service Officer.

*Provide* training to VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

*Help* cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

*Deliver* morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

### 2,000+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

### \$10.65 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,372 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

### \$10 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

### 66

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

### 25

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

### \$3.2 million

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

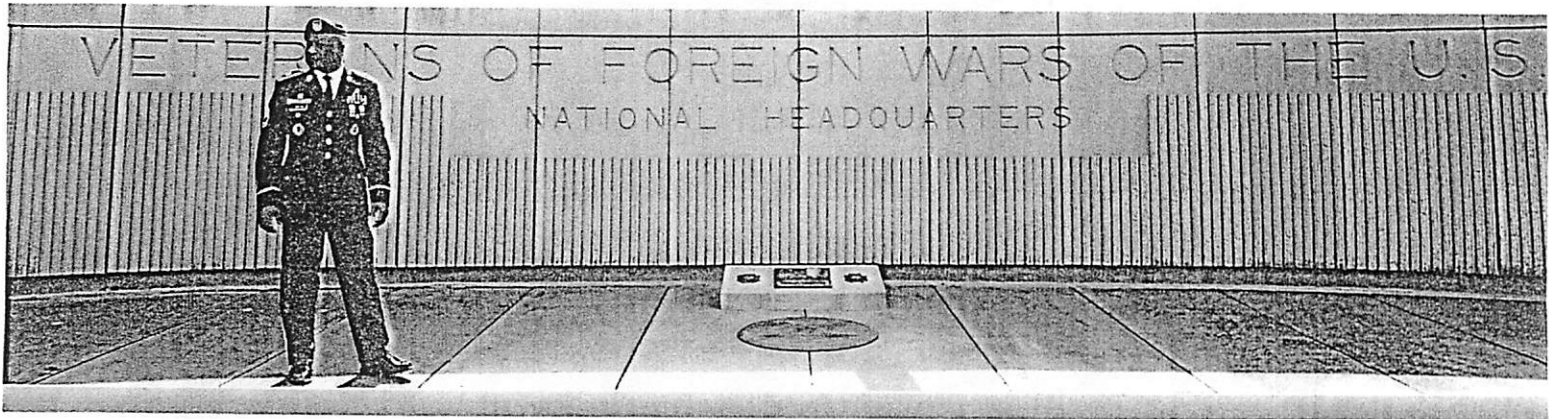
### \$12.5 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

### 2.4 million+

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.





**The VFW by the numbers**

**1.5 million**

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**5,883**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



**Cutting red tape**

**100,000**

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2021.

**Nearly 12,000**

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2021 resulting in more than \$152 million in disability compensation.

**20+**

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



**Helping struggling military families**

**11,139**

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through *VFW Unmet Needs* since 2004.

**\$5,567,730**

Amount of grants provided through *VFW Unmet Needs* covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

**3,823**

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



**Improving life in America**

**4.8 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$44.8 million**

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



**1899**

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



**Honoring the fallen**

**3.3 million**

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

**\$334,500**

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans last year.



**Inspiring patriotism in young people**

**25,000+**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2021-22 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

**72,000+**

Number of students who competed in the 2021-22 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

