



VFW Patriotic Youth Scholarship Contest Opens

Every year, students compete for their share of \$3 million in scholarships and awards

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is now accepting entries for its 2018-19 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. Dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of America, the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions help foster patriotism among today's youth. The programs also foster friendly competition as well as rewards success in the form of some \$3 million in scholarship monies being distributed.

The Voice of Democracy theme for 2018-19 asks high school students to reflect on "Why My Vote Matters." The audio-essay competition is open to all students in grades 9-12, with the top prize being a \$30,000 scholarship award. Nearly 40,000 high school students complete in the annual competition.

X The Patriot's Pen essay competition is open to all students in grades 6-8, and the 2018-19 competition asks students to examine the statement, "Why I Honor the American Flag." The first-place winner will receive a \$5,000 award. More than 132,000 students competed in this year's Patriot's Pen competition.

Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to their local participating VFW Post. The deadline for both contests is **October 31, 2018**.

For sponsorship through Kline-McCann-Styer VFW Post 7155

Contact

Kevin Hott at (717) 926-6707 or kevin.hott@gmail.com

The attached entry forms may be photocopied

Patriot's Pen

2018 - 19 Theme

"Why I Honor the American Flag"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2018

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

WHAT IS PATRIOT'S PEN?

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

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

BIG NATIONAL PRIZES

National awards total: \$54,500

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	13-22nd: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	23-24th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	25-53rd: \$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.

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.)

2018-19 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

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 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)

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 participating _____ No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. awards \$ _____

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DISTRICT

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

District Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

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 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 Contest Department Competition, and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature

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 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.