



New Mexico



## **VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES**

### **Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award**

- \*October 31, Teacher Nominations to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- January 1, Post Nominations to Department Chair
- January 10, Completion of Department judging
- \*February 1, Department winners and reports due to National (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation)

### **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen**

- \*October 31, Student entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- January 10, Completion of Department judging
- January 15, District participation reports due to Department Chairman
- \*January 15, Department winners due to National
- \*January 31, Department reports due to National

### **Scout of the Year**

- \*March 1, Scout entries to the Post
- \*April 1, Winner names to Dept QM
- \*May 1, Department entry to National from Department HQs

### **JROTC**

- Feb 15th, Nominations due (from Posts to District)

March 15th, Nominations due to Department HQ's  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, Nominations Due to National

### **MEMBER OF THE YEAR DUE DATES**

Feb 15th, Nominations due (from Posts to District)  
March 15th, Nominations due to Department HQ's  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, Nominations Due to National

### **VETERAN OF THE YEAR DUE DATES**

March 1, Nominations due (from Posts to District)  
March 15, Nominations due to Department HQ's  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, Nominations Due to National

### **PUBLIC SERVANT NATIONAL AWARD (LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTER, EMERGENCY SERVICES)**

January 1, Nominations due (from Post to Department)  
February 1, (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), Nominations due from Department to National

### **SERVICE OFFICER AWARD**

John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award

Eligible nominees include:

- Department Service Officers
- Assistant Department Service Officers
- Claims Consultants/Representative/Analysts/Reviewers
- Veterans Service Officers/Representatives

April 1, Nominations due to State HQs  
April 30, Nominations due to National



New Mexico



### **NATIONAL CERTIFICATION OF RECOGNITION**

April 1 (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation),  
List due to National from Department

### **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

No deadline. Posts submit completed Volunteer Award Request Forms to State Adjutant for record and submission to National HQs.

\*Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairmen, be sure to communicate with your District Chairmen to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairmen need to communicate with their Department Chairmen to find out their deadlines.

### **MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS**

Ordering and purchasing of materials to promote and support your Post's membership recruiting efforts may be found here:  
<https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/membershiprecruiting>

### **PATRIOT'S PEN**

Each year more than 138,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$900,000 in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Program

brochures and posters are available at the VFW

Store: <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen>

This year's Theme is: **"How Are You Inspired by America?"**

Additional information and application forms are available here:

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/community-service-youth-scholarships-and-activities>

### **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, more than 51,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.9 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships ranges from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Program brochures and posters are available at the VFW Store:

<https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy>

This year's Theme is: **"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"**

For additional information and application forms please go here:

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/community-service-youth-scholarships-and-activities>



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

New Mexico



### Junior ROTC Award

#### Description

The Junior ROTC award is a medal pendant with matching ribbon bar. The ribbon is 1-3/8 inches in width overall, consisting of a 1/8 inch gold stripe, a 1/8 inch purple stripe, a 7/8 inch gold stripe, a 1/8 inch purple stripe and a 1/8 inch gold stripe.

#### Eligibility

- Any 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student who is currently enrolled as a JROTC Cadet actively engaged in the JROTC Program, and one who meets the criteria for the award.
- Criteria:
  - Possession of individual characteristics contributing to leadership, including:
    - Positive attitude toward the Junior ROTC program.
    - Outstanding military bearing and conduct, both in and out of uniform.
  - Personal attributes (self-confidence, initiative, flexibility, and judgement).
  - Patriotism (commander or member of color guard, drill team with or without arms, flag protocol instruction team, and actively promote Americanism).
  - Courtesy (dependability, punctuality, human relations, respect, and cooperation).
  - Growth potential (capable of assuming high leadership responsibilities in JROTC Unit with additional training and experience).
- Attainment of a grade of "B" in JROTC with an overall average of "C" in all subjects for the previous semester. Must not have a failing grade in any subject for that period of time.
- Must be active in at least one other student co-curricular activity or club; i.e., music, athletics, student government, Junior Achievement, etc.
- Must not have been a previous recipient of the award.

#### Administration

The recipient of the award will be selected by the JROTC Unit.

#### Presentation

It is recommended that the award be presented annually at an appropriate ceremony. It is further recommended that a representative of the VFW be on hand to present the award.

### Senior ROTC Award

#### Description

The Senior ROTC award is a medal pendant with matching ribbon bar. The ribbon is 1-3/8 inches in width overall, consisting of a 1/8 inch purple stripe, a 1/8 inch gold stripe, a 7/8 inch purple stripe, a 1/8 inch gold stripe and a 1/8 inch purple stripe.

#### Eligibility

- Undergraduate student enrolled in Ms-I, -II, -III, or IV.
- Criteria:
  - Be in good standing academically and militarily.
  - Have demonstrated achievement and concentrated effort in military subjects or militarily academic subjects and/or demonstrated capability and diligence in a related activity of the ROTC program.
- Must not have been a previous recipient of the award.

#### Administration

The recipient of the award will be selected by the SROTC Unit.

#### Presentation

It is recommended that the award be presented annually at an appropriate ceremony. It is further recommended that a representative of the VFW be on hand to present the award.



### VFW ROTC Awards Ordering Procedure

These awards are further described in the VFW Store Catalog. Orders should be made well in advance of presentation if embossing of name on citation is requested with your order.

When ordering awards, please use the following numbers:

JROTC MEDAL - 1229 - Citation 4387  
ROTC MEDAL - 1226 - Citation 4386

#### Mail or call order to:

VFW Store  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Phone: 816.756.3390  
Order online at [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org)



## JROTC Award

- It is important that each year we recognize one of the many outstanding Junior ROTC candidates. This allows them to get a first look at the VFW
- The Post Commander will submit at least **ONE** per year from their Post or Auxiliary.
  - Nominees must be JROTC in good standing without a failing grade.
  - Entries must be to District no later than Feb 15th.

- Entries must be to Department by March 15th.
- The written recommendation will not be more than 300 words long. You may also include supporting documents which reflect accomplishments and/or recognition separate from the written recommendation, (i.e., a listing of volunteer activities, hospital work, blood donations, community service with emphasis on Veteran needs, etc.). Supporting documentation does NOT count as part of the 300 authorized words of recommendation. Posts are not required for a monetary donation. But it is encouraged to celebrate your entry, much like VOD and Patriot's Pen.

### **Employer of the Year**

This is to recognize the business that has either supported your post, Veterans, or Active-duty member.

- The Post Commander will submit the minimum of **ONE** per year from their Post or Auxiliary.

- Nominees must Not be a Government Employer.
- Entries must be to District no later than Feb 15th.
- Entries must be to Department by March 15th.
- The written recommendation will not be more than 300 words long. etc.).

Supporting documentation does NOT count as part of the 300 authorized words of recommendation. Post are not required for a monetary donation. But it is encouraged to celebrate your entry.

### **PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION (Part of the Safety Program)**

Each year, the VFW selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive Public Servant Awards. Given the recent events in our world due to the COVID-19 pandemic there are no shortages of worthy recipients of this recognition. The Commander urges all Posts to participate in this program and provide a much-needed pat on the back for public servants in your community. Additional information and nomination forms can be found here: [https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY\\_VFW/Training-and-Support/Community-Service/Public-Servant-Award-Instructions.pdf](https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Community-Service/Public-Servant-Award-Instructions.pdf)



New Mexico



### **SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Every VFW Post has the opportunity to expand their statewide support of the VFW's longstanding commitment to scouting. The VFW Scouting Program provides a perfect opportunity for young veterans to spend quality time with their children. For years scouting has been a cornerstone in building patriotic values and developing rich, fulfilling family relationships that endure for generations. The teaching, learning and sharing aspects of scouting are ideal for nurturing today's young veterans, as well as bringing families closer together. Our organization's commitment to supporting scouting programs provides a sense of belonging and an opportunity for community involvement for veterans in communities across the nation. Giving today's veterans an opportunity to spend quality time with their young children leaves an everlasting impression on the entire family and provides an appeal to the younger veteran that the VFW is a caring partner in their life and an organization worth their involvement and membership. Another immediate benefit to the VFW Post sponsoring a scout troop is the scout involvement in Post activities, such as placing flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day and helping distribute Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day, as well as any other patriotic events. It should also be noted that a high percentage of scouts join the military and become eligible for VFW membership.

### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR/CITIZEN EDUCATION**

The VFW Teacher of the Year award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each year, a certified/licensed elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics can be nominated for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Program brochures and posters are available at the VFW Store:

<https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation>

National winners receive:

- A \$1,000 award for professional development expenses.
- A \$1,000 award for his/her school.
- Two award plaques: one for the teacher, the other for his/her school.
- Additional information and application forms can be found here:

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/community-service-youth-scholarships-and-activities>

### **2023-2024 VFW Member OF THE YEAR**

#### **CRITERIA:**

Each year the Department of New Mexico works hard to properly recognize our Veterans or Auxiliary Member in the state for all the terrific work they do. It is equally important that each year we recognize one of the many outstanding comrades that make their Post and District proud. It's the individual that is always there in the trenches, doing all the volunteer work with that undying devotion to the ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. You know that one person you can always count on to get the job done with a smile? The following are the criteria for the Veteran of the Year Award:

- The Post Commander will submit only one Member per year from their Post or Auxiliary.
- Nominees must be a member in good standing.
- Entries must be to District no later than March 1st.
- Entries must be to Department by March 15th.
- The written recommendation will not be more than 300 words long. You may also include supporting documents which reflect accomplishments and/or recognition separate from the written recommendation, (i.e., a listing of volunteer activities, hospital work, blood donations, community service with emphasis on Veteran needs, etc.). Supporting documentation does NOT count as part of the 300 authorized words of recommendation. Please don't forget the individual's hat size when completing the nominating packet.
- Department veteran of the year chairman will form a Judging Panel composed of at least 3 VFW members of which one member will be a Past Department Commander.
- During the judging all personal identifying





## New Mexico



information to include name, gender, post number, etc. and anything not pertaining to the March 2023 to March 2024 year will be redacted. - The individual who is selected by the Judging Panel will be announced at the State Convention will receive a Veteran of the Year Cap, and his/ her and a guest's Banquet meal will be paid for by Department. Please contact me with any questions: PSC Christopher Archuleta

### **VFW Foundation Community Support Grant**

VFW community service projects are extremely important and shouldn't be hindered by budgetary limitations. In an effort to help VFW Posts and Auxiliaries succeed in serving their communities, the VFW Foundation - the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW - established the VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant to help fund local community service projects. Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission. Additional information and application forms can be found here: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

### **VFW FOUNDATION GRANT**

No one understands military and veteran support quite like we do. To help VFW Departments, Posts and Auxiliaries, as well as qualifying nonprofits provide the vital support America's heroes and their families deserve, the VFW Foundation has established the VFW Foundation Grant. Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000, will be awarded for activities that directly benefit veterans, active-duty military personnel

and their families. Requests displaying innovation in service delivery, unique program design that addresses an under-served need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration.

Additional information and application forms can be found here:

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

### **VFW NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION**

The VFW New Mexico Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to support the charitable efforts of Posts and Auxiliaries within New Mexico, and to support their efforts to better our communities and to take care of veterans and their families. It is our desire to raise the profile of the Foundation and increase your utilization of this great resource the Department of New Mexico membership has. The Foundation will be available for all Posts and Auxiliaries to use the “pass through” benefit when raising funds, especially corporate donations that may require a 501(c)(3) recipient. Community special projects will also be considered for “pass through” services if it benefits veterans, military, and their families. Grants are awarded on an annual basis during the State Convention. Only applications that are complete and sent before the deadline will be considered. Additional information and application forms can be found at: [nmvfwfoundation.org](http://nmvfwfoundation.org) or by contacting the VFW New Mexico Foundation Director or Secretary.

### **NEW MEXICO VFW RIDERS**

The Department VFW Riders Group was formed in 2010 and incorporates all Post Riders Groups throughout the state. If you are interested in forming a chapter at your Post or in your District, please contact the VFWRG President.

VFW STORE To view products and place custom orders please go to:

<https://www.vfwstore.org/>