



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 Vally Forge.

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: The 2025-26 theme is: *"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"*

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 Vally Forge. Program brochures and posters are available at the VFW Store:

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

This year's Theme is: The 2025-26 theme is: *"How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"*

For additional information and application forms please go here:

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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 underserved 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 GRANT

The mission of the VFW New Mexico Foundation is to actively serve veterans, service members, their families, and the communities where they live, by supporting programs and services that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve their quality of life. The VFW New Mexico Foundation is a dynamic veteran's organization that serves, advocates and fosters camaraderie for ALL veterans, service members, their families and our community. The Foundation harnesses its recognized authority, experience and resources to deliver comprehensive financial, educational, health & well-being programs and services at every stage of the veteran's military and civilian life.

Additional information and application forms can be found here:



<https://vfwnmfoundation.org/index.html>

Grants for individuals: <https://vfwnmfoundation.org/vap-apply.pdf>

Grants for Posts: <https://vfwnmfoundation.org/pr-apply.pdf>

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

REQUEST FOR STATE LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

Your State Leadership is eager to attend Post and District events in your communities. If you wish to request our attendance, please complete the Request for Representative form, and submit to State Adjutant Victoria Haddox. The Request form may be found under the FORMS tab.



SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every VFW Post could 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>

Winners receive: • A \$250.00 award for professional development expenses.

- Two award certificates: 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>

NEW MEXICO VFW RIDERS

The Department VFW Riders Group was formed in 2008 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 Department Riders President, Comrade Tom Larison, VFW Post 8703, at lairsontom@gmail.com.

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

<https://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=rider>



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 or by contacting the VFW New Mexico Foundation Secretary/Treasurer.