



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2023

LOCAL POST TO HOLD ANNUAL STUDENT COMPETITION

CITY, State

The Veterans of Foreign Wars are conducting their Annual Student Competition for various scholarships with patriotic and democratic themes. Students will have the opportunity of competing for scholarships at the local, regional, state and national levels.

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.

The 2023-24 theme is "How are you inspired by America?"

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 regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 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 \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range 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.

The 2023-24 theme is "What are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy?"

Want to apply? For rules and eligibility requirements please contact your local VFW Post:

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 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With nearly 1.7 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6,600 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 www.vfw.org.