



VFW State of West Virginia
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South Charleston, WV 25309
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www.vfwwv.com

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2 SERIES 2024-2025, AUGUST 2024

All General Orders will be forwarded electronically and posted on the state website at <https://vfwwv.com> under the Resources pulldown tab. Posts or individuals who want a hard copy of the General Orders and accompanying documents, send \$25 to VFW State HQS, PO Box 9431, South Charleston, WV 25309.

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership statistics for this new membership year are up and running in OMS. Life Members will not be reflected until approximately mid-September. There are 488 members who failed to pay their 2024 dues and 149 members whose dues expire between July 31st and August 31st. Junior Vice Commander Kevin Link has been appointed 2024-2025 Membership Chairman. For assistance with membership, contact Junior Vice Commander Link at 304-703-2771.

Congratulations to the following All-American Posts:

3466 Charleston (placed 7 th in Division 7)	3663 Buckhannon (placed 80 th in Division 6)
3522 Charles Town (placed 24 th in Division 3)	6450 Chester (placed 8 th in Division 2)
9926 Mason (placed 42 nd in Division 3)	

2. **2024-2025 DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

Per Section 218(a)(1)k. of the National Manual of Procedure, the Post Commander is to assure the Commander or their representative attends all properly called District Conventions or meetings Districts serve lunch before meetings. Time listed is lunch time.

	Host Post	Date	Time	State Rep
District 1	Masontown	August 25	12 PM	Wheeler
District 2	Mason*	August 24	12 PM	Ogden
District 3	Clarksburg	August 17	12 PM	Ogden
District 4	Moorefield#	August 4	1 PM	Heaney
District 5	Huntington	August 17	12 PM	Link

Schedule subject to change.

***District 2 Post and Auxiliary will meet at Serenity Hills, 516 Adams St Mason, WV 25260**

#District 4 Post and Auxiliary will meet at American Legion, 225 North Main St Moorefield, WV 26836

3. **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

July 26-Aug 1	National Convention Louisville, KY
July 31, 2023	Post Trustees Quarterly Audit due State HQS
Nov 7-9, 2024	Southern Conference Nashville, TN

4. **2024-2025 COMMANDER'S MANUAL:** Commander Ogden's manual are being mailed out to Posts who did not have representation at the State Convention. The manual has been placed on the website at <https://vfwwv.com> under the Programs pulldown tab.

5. **NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL**: The 2024-2025 National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual can be preordered through the VFW Store. The copy will not be available until all modifications approved by the delegates at the national convention are incorporated in the new book. To preorder, go to <http://vfwstore.org> and search for item number 04108. As a reminder, all Posts and Districts are required to have a current copy of the National Bylaws.
6. **LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**: Due to a page administrator issue we have created a new state Facebook page. There is also a discussion group page to share any information related to Posts and/or Auxiliary events, ideas, questions, comments, etc. If you have not already done so, visit the pages at <https://www.facebook.com/WVVFW>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wvvfw>
7. **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR**: With school starting in August now is the time to prepare to provide public and private schools and other civic organizations with this year's entry forms. Information on the programs can be found at <https://vfwvfw.com> under the Programs pulldown menu.
8. **2024-2025 OFFICER TRAINING GUIDES**: The 2024-2025 Officer Training Guides for Commanders, Quartermasters and Trustees are now available on the National website under the VFW Training and Support section. Additional valuable training videos, webinars and other materials are also available.
9. **COMMUNITY SERVICE ENTRIES**: The Dashboard is now accepting Community Service entries. As a reminder the new year began July 1st. Events completed prior to July 1st cannot be accepted. The link to enter recruiting events will be available in the near future.
10. **VFW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**: Posts are encouraged to make sure they have the current membership application forms NATIONAL COPY ver 2/22. This is found in the upper left of the form. Post Quartermaster can order applications free of charge with free shipping via OMS under the Tools, Products & Merch menu.
11. **MEMBERS AT LARGE**: Want a list of Members at Large in your area to recruit to your Post. Junior Vice Commander, District Commanders and State HQS can provide you a list. Members at Large have no voice. Please provide a list of towns/communities or zip codes in your area in your request. Encourage them to transfer to your Post!
12. **COMMANDER CALENDAR**: Any Post requesting the presence of Commander Ogden through June 2025 send a request in writing to State Headquarters.

OFFICIAL: BY ORDER OF:
S. KEVIN LIGHT, ADJUTANT
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

RICHARD E. OGDEN, COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

The State Commander completed the following visit for the last 30 days:

24 June, Met with the Louis B Johnson, VA hospital Director and Assist Director, on establishing a working relations for the VA outreach program and the VFW recruiting program.

27 June, Ridgeley Post 6452, installed new Post officer, in keeping the Post off suspension.

3 July, Military Expo, Beni Kedem Temple, Charleston, WV. 9 new members were recruited during the event.

4 July, Attended the Alderson 4th of July celebration. 2 new members were recruited during the event.

5 July, Attended Post 3663, Buckhannon, Meeting

9 July, Attended Nicholas County Veterans Appreciation Day, 1 new member was recruited during the event.

9 July, Attempted to attended the Burnsville Post 3757. I met with the commander only,

11 July, Attended the Alum Creek Post 4768. Very good meeting

12 July, Traveled to Huntington to speak at the American Legion Convention,

13 July, Visited the VFW Auxiliary, District Presidents training.

14 July, Attended the Charleston Post 3466, Good Meeting

15 July, State Headquarters Budget Meeting.

17 July, Attended the Fairmont Post 629 meeting, Very good and informative meeting.

Membership and the delinquency list are the main goals, we should be focusing on.

If you are not enrolled in Action Corps, please enroll and respond to all alerts.

To enroll in Action Corps go to <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

VFW State of West Virginia
memstats as of 072424

City	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention	N/R %
MOUNDSVILLE	437	1	0	0	0	3	3	145	2.06%	6		0	49	10.20%	0.00%
MORGANTOWN	548	1	0	0	0	1	1	126	0.79%	7		0	32	3.13%	0.00%
TERRA ALTA	578	1	0	1	0	2	3	98	3.06%	8		0	30	6.67%	1.02%
FAIRMONT	629	1	0	0	0	1	1	359	0.27%	3		0	12	8.33%	0.00%
KINGWOOD	826	1	0	0	0	0	0	60	0.00%	10		0	10	0.00%	0.00%
MASONTOWN	1589	1	0	0	0	1	1	97	1.03%	8		0	12	8.33%	0.00%
TUNNELTON	2345	1	0	0	0	3	3	47	6.38%	11		0	10	30.00%	0.00%
BRUCETON MILLS	2523	1	0	0	1	0	1	64	1.56%	10		0	23	0.00%	1.56%
WEIRTON	2716	1	0	1	0	5	6	211	2.84%	5		0	55	9.09%	0.47%
ROWLESBURG	3008	1	0	0	0	0	0	31	0.00%	11		0	1	0.00%	0.00%
NEW CUMBERLAND	3526	1	0	0	0	2	2	87	2.29%	9		0	49	8.16%	0.00%
ELM GROVE	4442	1	0	0	1	11	12	165	7.27%	6		0	90	15.56%	0.61%
SISTERSVILLE	6327	1	0	0	0	20	20	157	12.73%	6		0	43	48.84%	0.00%
CHESTER	6450	1	0	0	0	5	5	804	0.62%	2		0	213	17.84%	0.00%
EAST FAIRMONT	7048	1	0	2	0	4	6	273	2.19%	4		0	43	6.98%	0.73%
WESTOVER	9916	1	0	0	0	2	2	127	1.57%	7		0	22	13.64%	0.00%
District 1 Total		1	0	4	2	60	66	2851	2.31%	3				0.00%	0.21%

PARKERSBURG	1212	2	0	1	0	10	11	422	2.60%	3		0	98	9.18%	0.24%
WEST UNION	3408	2	0	0	0	0	0	51	0.00%	10		0	11	9.09%	0.00%
CHARLESTON	3466	2	0	0	0	2	2	175	1.14%	6		0	46	10.87%	0.00%
HARRISVILLE	3554	2	0	0	0	1	1	91	1.09%	8		0	22	4.55%	0.00%
CLAY	4419	2	0	0	0	0	0	55	0.00%	10		0	12	0.00%	0.00%
BELLE	5269	2	0	0	0	1	1	58	1.72%	10		0	24	4.17%	0.00%
GLENVILLE	5469	2	0	0	0	0	0	42	0.00%	11		0	1	100.00%	0.00%
RIPLEY	5501	2	0	1	0	5	6	134	4.47%	7		0	31	25.81%	0.75%
SAINT ALBANS	6418	2	0	0	0	2	2	57	3.50%	10		0	11	27.27%	0.00%
RAVENSWOOD	6669	2	0	0	0	1	1	105	0.95%	8		0	21	4.76%	0.00%
CHESAPEAKE	8363	2	0	3	0	3	6	120	5.00%	7		0	38	15.79%	2.50%
ELKVIEW	8516	2	0	0	0	4	4	60	6.66%	10		0	17	23.53%	0.00%
MASON	9926	2	0	2	0	3	5	582	0.85%	3		0	114	7.02%	0.34%
District 2 Total		2	0	7	0	32	39	1952	1.99%	4		0			0.36%

BELINGTON	410	3	0	0	0	1	1	186	0.53%	5		0	15	6.67%	0.00%
CLARKSBURG	573	3	0	1	0	18	19	469	4.05%	3		0	133	15.04%	0.21%
WESTON	1976	3	0	0	0	0	0	36	0.00%	11		0	11	0.00%	0.00%
GRAFTON	3081	3	0	0	0	3	3	141	2.12%	7		0	44	6.82%	0.00%
BUCKHANNON	3663	3	0	0	1	2	3	177	1.69%	6		0	50	6.00%	0.56%
WEBSTER SPRINGS	3738	3	0	0	0	1	1	37	2.70%	11		0	15	6.67%	0.00%
BURNSVILLE	3757	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.00%	11		0	0	100.00%	0.00%
MARLINTON	4595	3	0	0	0	0	0	47	0.00%	11		0	14	0.00%	0.00%
SUMMERSVILLE	6106	3	0	1	0	3	4	79	5.06%	9		0	35	11.43%	1.27%
ALDERSON	6723	3	0	1	0	5	6	66	9.09%	10		0	27	18.52%	1.52%
RENICK	6737	3	0	0	0	2	2	18	11.11%	11		0	8	12.50%	0.00%
CRAIGSVILLE	8614	3	0	0	0	1	1	29	3.44%	11		0	10	10.00%	0.00%
SALEM	9151	3	0	0	0	0	0	61	0.00%	10		0	7	14.29%	0.00%
District 3 Total		3	0	3	1	36	40	1360	2.94%	5		0			0.29%

VFW State of West Virginia
memstats as of 072424

City	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention	N/R %
MARTINSBURG	896	4	0	0	0	3	3	240	1.25%	5		0	47	6.38%	0.00%
ROMNEY	1101	4	0	0	0	1	1	91	1.09%	8		0	29	3.45%	0.00%
WARDENSVILLE	2102	4	0	0	0	2	2	150	1.33%	6		0	59	6.78%	0.00%
KEYSER	3518	4	0	2	0	1	3	140	2.14%	7		0	31	6.45%	1.43%
CHARLES TOWN	3522	4	0	2	0	3	5	658	0.75%	3		0	54	27.78%	0.30%
ELKINS	3647	4	0	1	0	5	6	127	4.72%	7		0	39	17.95%	0.79%
BERKELEY SPRINGS	4019	4	0	0	0	2	2	126	1.58%	7		0	42	16.67%	0.00%
COALTON	5583	4	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.00%	11		0	5	20.00%	0.00%
HARMAN	5781	4	0	0	0	0	0	19	0.00%	11		0	9	0.00%	0.00%
RIDGELEY	6452	4	0	0	0	0	0	74	0.00%	9		0	24	4.17%	0.00%
PETERSBURG	6454	4	0	0	0	1	1	111	0.90%	8		0	8	25.00%	0.00%
FORT ASHBY	6667	4	0	0	0	7	7	160	4.37%	6		0	49	18.37%	0.00%
MATHIAS	7780	4	0	0	0	1	1	17	5.88%	11		0	2	50.00%	0.00%
MOOREFIELD	9606	4	0	0	0	1	1	105	0.95%	8		0	38	10.53%	0.00%
SUGAR GROVE	9666	4	0	0	0	0	0	91	0.00%	8		0	3	0.00%	0.00%
District 4 Total		4	0	5	0	27	32	2127	1.50%	4		0			0.24%

HUNTINGTON	1064	5	0	0	0	3	3	398	0.75%	3		0	80	3.75%	0.00%
IAEGER	1144	5	0	0	0	1	1	53	1.88%	10		0	9	11.11%	0.00%
SOPHIA	4326	5	0	0	0	3	3	116	2.58%	7		0	36	16.67%	0.00%
BECKLEY	4469	5	0	0	0	2	2	106	1.88%	8		0	32	9.38%	0.00%
HINTON	4500	5	0	0	0	0	0	25	0.00%	11		0	4	0.00%	0.00%
ALUM CREEK	4768	5	0	1	0	4	5	69	7.24%	9		0	19	31.58%	1.45%
MADISON	5578	5	0	0	0	2	2	223	0.89%	5		0	75	6.67%	0.00%
CHAPMANVILLE	6153	5	0	0	0	2	2	100	2.00%	8		0	28	10.71%	0.00%
ANSTED	7695	5	0	0	0	1	1	62	1.61%	10		0	20	15.00%	0.00%
OCEANA	8364	5	0	0	0	0	0	69	0.00%	9		0	11	0.00%	0.00%
HURRICANE	9097	5	0	0	0	2	2	174	1.14%	6		0	54	7.41%	0.00%
MILTON	9796	5	0	0	0	3	3	94	3.19%	8		0	15	20.00%	0.00%
District 5 Total		5	0	1	0	23	24	1489	1.61%	4		0			0.07%

Members at Large	15050	99	0	1	0	19	20	927	2.15%	2		0			0.11%
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State Total		255	0	21	3	197	221	10706	2.06%			0			0.22%
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***2024-2025 Goal**

2025 Post and Post Commander of the Year Score Sheet

[illegible]

2025 Post and Post Commander of the Year Score Sheet

						*100% by May 1st	*Purchase 500 Poppies by May 1st	*Donate \$275 to VFW Programs	*Submit Monthly Community Service Report in Dashboard	*Submit Community Service Nursing Home Visits (2 max)	*Donate \$100 to National Home (West Virginia House)	*Each New Member Recruited above 100%	New/Reinstated Membership percentage of 5% or greater	Each New Life Member	Each New Legacy Life recruited	Submit Voice of Democracy Entry	Submit Patriot's Pen entry	*Submit Teacher of the Year Entry	Submit Public Servant Entry	Submit JROTC Cadet of the Year package
						100 pts	5 pts	100 pts	10 pts each month	10 pts	100 pts max	5 pts each	25 pts	5 pts	10 pts each level	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts each category	10 pts each category	10 pts
				total																
	3	2	3466	Charleston	220			100	10	10	100									
	3	2	8363	Chesapeake	30				10						20					
	3	4	2102	Wardensville	20				10						10					
	3	3	3081	Grafton	10				10											
	3	3	3663	Buckhannon	10				10											
	3	1	4442	Elm Grove	10				10											
	3	5	4469	Beckley	10				10											
	3	4	6667	Fort Ashby	10				10											
	3	4	9606	Moorefield	10				10											
	3	5	9097	Hurricane	0															
	3	4	6454	Petersburg	0															
	3	1	9916	Westover	0															
	3	4	4019	Berkeley Springs	0															
	3	1	548	Morgantown	0															
	3	2	6669	Ravenswood	0															
	3	3	410	Belington	0															
	3	4	3647	Elkins	0															
	3	5	4326	Sophia	0															
	3	4	3518	Keyser	0															
	3	1	6327	Sistersville	0															
	3	1	437	Moundsville	0															
	3	2	5501	Ripley	0															
	4	5	5578	Madison	10				10											
	4	1	7048	East Fairmont	10				10											
	4	2	1212	Parkersburg	0															
	4	1	629	Fairmont	0															
	4	4	896	Martinsburg	0															
	4	5	1064	Huntington	0															
	4	1	2716	Weirton	0															
	5	2	9926	Mason	215		5	100	10	10	100									
	5	4	3522	Charles Town	30				10	10					10					
	5	1	6450	Chester	20				10						10					
	5	3	573	Clarksburg	0															
									*All State Requirement											

2024-2025 Theme

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

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 73,000 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; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 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 its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2024. 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 2024-2025 theme is:

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

Note:

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

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.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](https://www.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 816.968.1155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2024-2025 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. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. 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

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/Chairperson Signature Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson 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 Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson 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:



2024-2025 Theme

“Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 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 27,000 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, “**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**”

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 \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

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, 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. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. 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 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](https://www.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

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, 2024**. 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.

2024-2025 Official Entry Form
Voice of Democracy Competition
Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last
Address
City, State, Zip
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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
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Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone
Parent/Guardian 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 not used any AI tools. 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.

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 Voice of Democracy Competition.
Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post #
VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson 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 Chairperson Signature Dist. #
Address
City, State, Zip
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Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.
Department Chairperson 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

For assistance contact:
816.968.1155
Email: youthships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:
Contact:
Phone: Best Time To Call:
Alternate Contact:
Phone: Best Time To Call:



Deceased member 0701-072424

Post	First	MI	Last	Date
629	Harold	H	Russell	7/15/2024
629	Peter	Y	Turner	7/2/2024
1101	Robert	B	Patterson	7/9/2024
1212	Allen	L	Chapman	7/23/2024
2716	David	L	Brooks	7/9/2024
3522	Thomas	L	Trumble	7/12/2024
4500	Thomas	A	Patrick, Jr	7/3/2024
5501	Roger	R	Durst	7/23/2024
5501	Richard	E	Jarrell	7/2/2024
6450	Ernest	C	Grogg	7/16/2024
6667	Edmund	F	Roleff, Jr	7/23/2024
6669	Roger	I	Pinnell	7/2/2024
8516	Donald	H	Jarvis	7/16/2024
9606	James	B	Sherman	7/9/2024
9926	Edward	A	Berg	7/9/2024
9926	James	W	Johnson	7/9/2024
9926	James	R	Ruggles	7/16/2024