

Are you ready to get the “RED CARPET” out to CELEBRATE the accomplishments of our youth. The time is coming up quickly. Our mid-winter conference is rapidly approaching. But first we must get our students participating in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen.

Deadlines are coming up. October 31st by midnight is the deadline to submit The Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen entries to your local VFW Post. This year the application is processed by the VFW Post. The application is done on Scholar’s App.

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the October 31st 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. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

The theme for 2025-2026 is “How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?”

Record an original 3–5-minute audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. Submit the recording, typed essay and a completed entry form to the VFW Post for judging before midnight October 31, 2025.

Patriot’s Pen is open to students in grades 6-8 by the October 31st deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school in the United States, its territories, or its possessions. Home schooled students are also eligible. Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.

The theme for 2025-2026 is “How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?”

The application is done on Scholar’s App. All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300-400 words in length. The essay must be the contestant’s original work and a product of their own thinking. The Patriot’s Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2025.

A complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources.

- VFW website: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- MALTA Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

Please make a monetary donation to all our wonderful scholarships – Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Oregon Continuing Education Scholarship, VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship and Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Plan on having a fundraising dinner, raffle basket, cookie sale whatever you can imagine to help support these empowering programs for our youth. Make your checks out to the Department noting that they are for scholarships and send them to the Department

Treasurer Sonya Sallee. The more money donated the more and/or larger amounts that can be awarded. Invest in the future of our children.

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