

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students participate in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition and the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, garnering more than \$3.4 million in scholarships and incentives the sum of which will increase with the 2017-2018 year. In addition to VFW's other programs, the many Posts and Auxiliaries across the nation work with youth in scouting, sports, ROTC and military cadet programs. By providing leaders, funding, sponsorships and other resources, the VFW and its Auxiliaries encourage millions of America's young adults to higher ideals and greater personal achievement.

The Voice of Democracy

The theme for the 2017-2018 year is, "**American History: Our Hope for the Future**"

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program is specified for grades 9-12.

Submittals are to be furnished VFW Ship 1774 for receipt on any date prior to the **absolute deadline** of 31 Oct 2017. Early entries will be accepted.

Specific guidance for this program, which must be followed without deviation, can be found at the www.vfw.org, COMMUNITY, YOUTH & EDUCATION.

Patriot's Pen

The deadline for the 2017-2018 entry is **October 31, 2017**. The theme "**America's Gift to My Generation**"

Patriot's Pen Scholarship Program is specified for grades 6-8.

Submittals are to be furnished VFW Ship 1774 for receipt on any date prior to the **absolute deadline** of 31 Oct 2017. Early entries will be accepted.

Specific guidance for this program, which must be followed without deviation, can be found at the www.vfw.org, COMMUNITY, YOUTH & EDUCATION.

Scout of the Year

Each year the VFW honors three young people - from Boy or Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts or Venturing Crew - who have demonstrated exceptional citizenship in school, scouting and the community.

Scouts must be 15 years of age and have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting and the community.

Scouts must be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Complete applications must be submitted to the Ship by 1 March of each year. Inputs can be submitted via your school or directly to the Post from the individual.

Specific guidance for this program, which must be followed without deviation, can be found at the www.vfw.org, COMMUNITY, YOUTH & EDUCATION.

Teacher of the Year

Each year the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers - one each from the elementary, junior high and high school levels - for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and instill patriotism in their students.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for the Teacher of the Year award. If you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall, organizes community volunteer projects or invites local veterans to speak in class, anything to help students develop a better understanding of democratic values and beliefs, this award is for them.

Complete applications must be submitted to the Ship by 15 February of each year. Inputs can be submitted via the school or directly to the Post from the individual. ***Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals. Nominations submitted by relatives or self are not eligible.***

Specific guidance for this program, which must be followed without deviation, can be found at the www.vfw.org, COMMUNITY, YOUTH & EDUCATION.