

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
**WIN \$30,000 FIRST PLACE, \$16,000 SECOND PLACE, PLUS ???**

**(SHIP 1774 entrant John Dykstra 2015-2016 WON \$16,000 SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION and who went to Washington D.C. to deliver the speech)**

**SUBMITTALS to VFW Ship 1774 must be received NOT LATER THAN 31 OCT 2019. Early submittals will be accepted.**

Each year, VFW offers scholarships to those students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school **or** home study program in the United States and its territories.

The written and oral submittals and the entry form for the individual(s) that will be sponsored by us can be mailed to O.K. Ingram Ship 1774, P.O. Box 265, La Mesa, CA 91944-0265 OR delivered to us at the American Legion facility located at 8118 University Ave, La Mesa, CA.

The theme for 2019-2020 is, "What Makes America Great." The entry form can be found at:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

**Entrants record their reading of the essay to a Memory Stick or CD. The recording can be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes (plus or minus 5 seconds). The recording must exactly match the written essay.**

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should reflect 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 the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner that makes the essay "come alive."

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

In recent years, interviews with teachers and school leaders have indicated that teachers are often reluctant to encourage participation in our scholarship competition if they are required to take class time to have their students all complete entry forms and record their scripts. For this reason, **we offer the teachers the following options:** Teachers/youth leaders are encouraged to simply use Voice of Democracy as a written patriotic exercise. The teacher/leader has the option of:

1. Submitting all scripts and recordings to the Post for judging; Or:
2. Conducting a judging within the group and advancing one winner for every fifteen (15) participants.

These options are ultimately the decision of the Post chairman in collaboration with the teacher, school official or youth group leader.

What does this mean? If the school takes option 2, then the Post may advance those winners provided by that school in addition to any other essays judged by the Post. To do this, get a list of all students that participated in the school competition on school letterhead. The Post then can take credit for all the students that participated at the school. Remember, one student may be selected for every 15 participating, same as at the Post level.

**ADVANCING POST WINNERS:** Posts may advance one winner for every fifteen (15) entries.