

# VFW Scholarship Programs

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**WIN \$30,000 FIRST PLACE, \$16,000 SECOND PLACE, PLUS ???**

**(SHIP 1774 2015-2016 WINNER, John Dykstra, WON \$16,000 as SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION**

**WE MUST RECEIVE NOT LATER THAN 31 OCT 2018**

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.

Submittals (written and oral) – along with the entry form - that will be sponsored by us are mailed to O.K. Ingram Ship 1774, P.O. Box 265, La Mesa, CA 91944-0265 OR delivered to us at 8118 University Ave, La Mesa **NOT LATER THAN THE DUE DATE; EARLIER SUBMITTALS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Winners at each level (Post, District, State) win monetary awards while their submittal is advanced to the next level, with the ultimate judging being at National Hq and a chance for \$30,000.00 along with other awards.

The theme for the 2018-2019 year is, "Why My Vote Matters"

**Entry form can be found at: [VFW Voice of Democracy](#)**

Students should record their reading 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 writing must match to the recording. Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student creates their essay and completes burning the audio version to a Memory Stick/CD, they can submit their typed version, CD and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post by the 31 October 2018. **EARLY ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

### **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 the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

### **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.

Which option above is used is ultimately the decision of the Post chairman, working closely 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, 1 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.

## **PATRIOT'S PEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**YOU TOO CAN WIN \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond!**

### **WHO CAN ENTER:**

The Patriot's Pen program is open to students in grades 6-8 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

### **HOW TO ENTER:**

The deadline for the 2018-2019 entry is **October 31, 2018**. The theme **"Why I Honor the American Flag"** The written essay is an absolute minimum of 300 words and an absolute maximum of 400 words. Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition. When completed, the essay and entry form is provided to: O.K. Ingram Ship 1774, P.O. Box 265, La Mesa, CA 91944-0265 to be received not later than **Oct 31, 2018**. **Earlier entries are accepted**. Entry form can be found at: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

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.

### **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](http://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](http://www.vfw.org) , COMMUNITY, YOUTH & EDUCATION