

# 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 2017**

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 2017-2018 year is, **“American History: Our Hope for the Future”**

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

Students should record their reading to a 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 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 2017. **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.