PATRIOT'S PEN



2022-2023 Theme

"My Pledge to Our Veterans."

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 84,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

How Do | Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.

Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before
the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2022. You can submit your essay
and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to
the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

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.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2022-2023 theme is:

"My Pledge To Our Veterans."

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2022.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit **vfw.org/contactus** to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and Email.

For assistance contact the VFW National Headquarters at 816.756.3390 ext. 6155 Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org



2022-2023 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

| Must be completed by An contestants | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature | Post# | |
| Name: First, M.I., Last | VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (If applicable) | | |
| Address | Post Address | | |
| City, State, Zip | City, State, Zip | · | |
| () | | | |
| Phone Email | VFW Post Email | | |
| Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count | No. of participants No. of win | ners | |
| School Name, City, State | Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$ | | |
| Teacher's name and Email (if applicable) | Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$ | | |
| To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over) Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) | To Be Completed by the VFW District I certify that the student named in the previous sectio winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competitio into the Departments. | n is the duly selected on and is our sole entry | |
| Parent/Guardian Signature Date | | | |
| () | District Chairman's Signature | Dist. # | |
| Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone | Address | | |
| Parent/Guardian's Email | | | |
| What Are the Rules? | City, State, Zip | | |
| You must write your own essay. | Phone Email | | |
| All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay | To Be Completed by the VFW Department C I certify that the student named in the previous section first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Concentry into the National Judging. | is the duly selected | |
| (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is | Department Chairman's Signature | | |
| your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a | | | |
| staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to | Daytime Phone Email | | |
| enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition). The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the | The winner O has been O will be (check one) notified first-place Department winner on | I that they are the | |
| contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for | Local VFW Post Information: | | |
| punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the | Contact: | | |
| contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and | Phone: Best Tim | e To Call: | |
| execution of the organization's programs and activities. | Alternate Contact: | | |
| At any time during the contest additional participant personal | Phone: Best Tim | e To Call: | |

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

Patriot's Pen Competition.

i certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level







information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

2022-2023 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Address

Name: First, M.I., Last

| () | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| Phone | Email | |
| Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) | Grade in School | Essay Word Count |
| School Name, City, State | | |
| Teacher's Name and Email (If applicable) | able) | |
| To Be Completed by Student's (Required even if student is 18 or over) | t's Parent/Guardian _{er)} | |
| Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) | | |
| Parent/Guardian Signature | | Date |
| Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone | | |
| Parent/Guardian Email | | |
| To Be Completed by the VFW Post level Voice of Competition. I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Competition. | N Post ted entry in our VFW Post lev | rel Voice of Competition. |
| Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature | ature | Post# |
| VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (If applicable) | 's Signature (If applicable | |
| Post Address | | |
| City, State, Zip | | |
| VFW Post Email | | |
| No. of participants | No. of winners | |
| Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards | rds \$ | |
| Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$ | es (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$ | |

To Be Completed by the VFW District
Learlify that this student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

| () Phone | City, State, Zip | Address |
|-----------|------------------|---------|
| Email | | |
| | | |

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman lecrify that this student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

| hone) | District Chairman's Signature |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Email | ire Dist. # |
| | Phone Email |

first-place Department winner on

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

Contact

Phone Alternate Contact Best Time To Call

For assistance contact:

Best Time To Call

816.756.3390 ext. 6155 Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org vfw.org

VFW STORE ORDER NO. 4420

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Scholarship





PATRIOT'S PEN

"My Pledge to Our Veterans" 2022-2023 Theme:



Revised 03/2022

X TWISTED X Proudly Sponsored By

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VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit **vfw.org/contactus** to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and Email. have trouble contacting them, you can contact your If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word contribute to the word count. max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not
- within their essay (including, but not limited to, Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form origin. your name, school, city, state, race or national In no way may contestants identify themselves is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official

enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener Post competition).

The essay must be contestant's original work

- and are not required to present the essay orally. will be judged on the basis of their essay alone content must remain the contestant's. Contestants plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not and a product of the contestant's own thinking. promotion and execution of the organization's rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive All essays become the property of the Veteran's of for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the programs and activities. teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should
- At any time during the contest additional etc.) could be requested by the VFW. participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org the VFW National Headquarters at 816.756.3390 ext. 6155 For assistance contact

