



VFW Programs & Projects

Since its founding, VFW has been a staple in the community. Troop support, youth activities, volunteering and scholarship programs are a few of the ways VFW shines in the many communities and cities where Posts are located.

www.vfw.org

Patriot's Pen

Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$55,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

Want to apply?

[Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) :

[<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Patriots-Pen-Rules-and-Eligibility.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20170323T202830Z>]

and [download the entry form and brochure](#)

[<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Patriots-Pen-Student-Entry-Form-and-Brochure.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20180316T180648Z>]

before submitting your entry to your local VFW Post.

The 2018-19 theme is:

Why I Honor the American Flag