



VFW Programs & Projects

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

Youth Scholarship Programs

- ***Voice of Democracy***

This audio-essay competition annually awards nearly \$2 million in scholarships to students in grades 9-12. First-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

- ***Patriot's Pen***

More than \$1.2 million is awarded annually to students in grades 6-8 in this essay contest. First-place winner receives \$5,000.

- ***Scout of the Year***

Three scholarships are awarded annually to outstanding scouts. First place receives \$5,000, second place receives \$3,000 and third place receives \$1,000.

- ***Teacher of the Year***

The VFW annually recognizes one exceptional elementary, junior and high school teacher for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Awards include \$1,000 for professional development, \$1,000 for his/her school, and an all-expense-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention. In addition, the top 10 high school Teacher of the Year recipients will have an opportunity to attend a graduate level Medal of Honor Character Development program at Freedoms Foundation.

Educational Outreach

- ***Echoes From the Wall***

The VFW partnered with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to distribute a curriculum, Echoes From the Wall, to 25,000 public and private high schools and donated \$50,000 to the project.

- ***Educational Brochures***

The VFW produces and distributes a flag brochure and poster.

- ***Veterans in the Classroom***

November is officially known as VFW Veterans in the Classroom Month. Members demonstrate flag etiquette and share their wartime experiences with America's youth.

Youth Activities

Locally, VFW Posts sponsor various youth sporting programs such as baseball and ice hockey. In addition many VFW Posts sponsor Boy and Girl Scout troops, Junior Olympics, bike safety, JROTC units, drill teams, color guards and a variety of other programs to build good citizenship and exemplary character in America's youth.

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