



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America

2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this national art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

VFW Auxiliary National Level Awards

Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate
- Students in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



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Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type. Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
Media used: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization. VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of the award.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
Contact email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries in each grade division may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.

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