

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS



Post 2995

The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generations. Our youth scholarships challenge students to reflect on our nation's history, their ideals and principles, and their own experiences based on a patriotic theme.

DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON - GRADES 3 - 5



The VFW Department of Washington provides a youth essay contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Participants must compose their own essay, and it must be clearly handwritten, typed or computer prepared.

The program is completely voluntary, and a student does not have to go through his/her school to participate. Any student from any school in Washington State may enter the program. Home Schooled students are also eligible. Essays become the property of the Department. The essay shall not exceed 250 words. Essay must stay within the prescribed subject matter and there can be NO added color or artwork. Essays written in poem form will not be accepted.

Want to apply? For rules, eligibility requirements, and application, visit the [Department of Washington Youth Essay Program](#) page. All student entries must be submitted to Post 2995 by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

Youth Essays need to be submitted to the [Youth Essays Team](#) after downloading and completing the [2026-2027 Department of Washington Youth Essay entry form](#).

The Post will award the following scholarship amounts:

1st: \$100.⁰⁰ / 2nd: \$50.⁰⁰ / 3rd: \$25.⁰⁰

The 2026-2027 theme is: ***What I Would Say to a Founding Father?***



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS – TEACHER AWARDS

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America. Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle, and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program.

Please [review the new rules and eligibility requirements](#) and [download the 2026 entry form](#) to nominate a teacher you know. Teacher nomination entries are due to VFW Post 2995 by the **Oct. 31 deadline**.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor them today.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

The Post will award its Teacher of the Year with a **\$500.⁰⁰** check

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded to the Department with the winning teacher entry form.