

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS



Post 2995

The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$35,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, these scholarships may be for you.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY - GRADES 9 - 12



Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 students enter to win their share of more than \$1.3 million in educational scholarships and incentives being awarded.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. Additional national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first-place winner from each Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000.

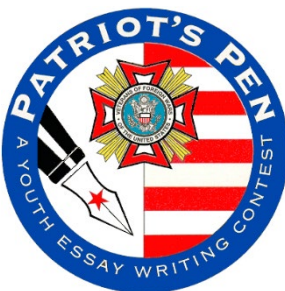
Want to apply? All student entries must be submitted to Post 2995 by **midnight, Oct. 31**. Applications can easily be uploaded to the Post's Scholarship App link by entering the web address of bit.ly/3Wo5Xdm or by scanning the QR code.

Youth Essays may also be submitted to the [Youth Essays Team](#) after downloading and completing the [2026-2027 Voice of Democracy Entry Form](#).

The Post will award the following scholarship amounts:

1st: \$1,000.⁰⁰ / 2nd: \$750.⁰⁰ / 3rd: \$500.⁰⁰

The 2026-2027 theme is: ***What a Veteran Taught Me About America?***



PATRIOT'S PEN - GRADES 6 - 8

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

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? All student entries must be submitted to Post 2995 by midnight, Oct. 31. Applications can easily be uploaded to the Post's Scholarship App link by entering the web address of bit.ly/4eZhE1v or by scanning the QR code.

Youth Essays may also be submitted to the [Youth Essays Team](#) after downloading and completing the [2026-2027 Patriot's Pen Entry Form](#).

The Post will award the following scholarship amounts:

1st: \$300.⁰⁰ / 2nd: \$200.⁰⁰ / 3rd: \$100.⁰⁰

The 2026-2027 theme is: ***What a Veteran Taught Me About America?***

