

VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
Youth Activities Guide Sheet 2025-2026
National Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans
Department Theme: Saluting Our Heroes

2025-2026 Dept. Chairman: Darnell Bohlander

Program Goals: Sponsoring & Working with Youth Groups; Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations; Patriotic Youth Award; Patriotism through Literacy; Illustrating America

VFW Auxiliary has a unique opportunity to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults by serving our country, communities and veterans. Today's youth are the future of our nation.

A new generation of veterans are in our communities and they need the support of family, friends and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad. Youth play an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary Programs.

Working together by sponsoring a youth group and engaging youth in any one of our programs to include activities honoring our veterans or to assist our service members and their families.

National Award for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2026. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Past Department Presidents' Awards:

1. Award to Auxiliary & Auxiliary Chairman for Best Overall Promotion of Program in each Membership Category.

Please use the following checklist throughout the 2025-2026 year to track your Auxiliary's Youth Activities progress.

Membership Categories:

#1: 10-50 members, #2: 51-110 members, #3: 111-225 members, and #4: 226 & above

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Number of youth groups worked with during the program year.		
Number of youth worked with during the program year.		

Number of "Youth Group Supporting our Veterans" citations awarded.		
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Auxiliary promoted/participated in Patriotism through Literacy. Report number of books donated.		
Auxiliary promoted/participated in Illustrating America art contest. Report nubmer of art entries received and monetary awards presented.		
Hosted awards ceremony for youth participating in Illustrating America contest.		
Involved Youth is ALL Auxiliary Programs.		