



South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Youth Activities
Bulletin August 2024

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *United in Service for Veterans*

Greetings,

With the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally going on it reminds me that schools are soon going to be in session in South Dakota! We need to stay connected to our youth as they are our future. The future leaders of our country and future members of our organizations.

Now is a perfect time to contact school leadership with information about our “*Illustrating America*” contest. There are three (3) grade divisions – K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 with first, second and third place awards in each division. The information on the “*Illustrating America*” contest is available by clicking on the link on this program section.

Keep in mind, the need to combine your efforts with other chairmen in promoting our contests/scholarships for youth in your local community. Let’s not forget to contact our home-school associations and after-school programs when promoting youth art contests. By working with your Scholarship Chairman, you can combine efforts to cover several programs.

You can include youth by helping to make the day of a hospitalized veteran through a simple card or visit (Hospital); preparing thank you cards or personal hygiene packets for homeless veterans (Veterans and Family Support); providing information on how a bill becomes law (Legislative) – just a few examples.

The Patriotism through Literacy program helps to introduce youth to historical figures and teaches them about events in our nation’s history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. Your Auxiliary can purchase and donate books for youth to your library. A complete listing of suggested books is included in this program’s resource listing.

Encourage and reward patriotism through use of the R.A.P. cards. Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.) cards can be handed out to a child who is seen thanking a veteran, properly placing their hand over their heart during the Pledge of Allegiance or involved in some other activity that promotes patriotism. This is a fun way to engage children of elementary age or younger in patriotism.

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