

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary  
Youth Activities  
Bulletin December 2024**

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

Veterans' Day is past and now is the time to complete your reporting on the Department of South Dakota website. If your Auxiliary members participated in a presentation at a school (which may qualify for both Youth and Americanism programs).

School holiday vacation is fast approaching; and it is a great time to remind students of the "Illustrating America" and our VFW Auxiliary Scholarship art contests. The deadline for entries is March 31 so students can use their "vacation time" to work on and perfect their entries.

Other ideas for assisting community youth groups are:

- Sponsor a youth bowling team.
- Provide a pizza party for a local youth organization.
- Purchase a hand-made wreath from a youth group fundraiser.
- Toys for Tots (or Coats for Kids) donations at Military Bases. Don't forget the Operation Bottom Cover for Base/National Guard personnel.

AND, don't forget to combine your efforts with youth groups to conduct events/projects that fall under other programs. Here are a few ideas to help with that:

- Promote the art contests under Scholarships while at the pizza party for a youth group.
- Present/deliver wreaths purchased from a youth group to the homes of area Veterans to brighten their spirits.

***Now some December days to remember.*** There is actually a "food day" for each day in December: National Pie Day, National Fritter Day, National Cookie Day, National Brownie Day, National Cocoa Day, and even National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day.

And here are some other days of distinction:

- 12/1 – National Special Education Day
- 12/3 – National Day of Giving
- 12/4 – Wildlife Conservation Day, National Sock Day
- 12/6 – Mitten Tree Day
- 12/7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

- 12/12 – National Ding-A-Ling Day: a day to reconnect with people you haven't heard from in a while.
- 12/13 – National Guard Birthday: established December 13, 1636 when Massachusetts established an official militia in the American Colonies.
- 12/15 – Bill of Rights Day
- 12/17 – National Say It Now Day: a day to tell friends and loved ones how important they are to us by expressing gratitude for all the ways they've impacted our lives.
- 12/18 – National Twin Day and "Answer the Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day": just say "(insert your name) the Elf, what's your favorite color?"
- 12/21 – Humbug Day: recognizes the Ebenezers, the Scrooges, grinchers and curmudgeons who suck the joy out of the holiday season.
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve
- 12/25 – Christmas Day
- 12/26 – Whiners Day: for those who didn't get what they wanted for Christmas.
- 12/28 – Pledge of Allegiance Day: commemorates the day Congress adopted "The Pledge" into the United States Flag Code.
- 12/31 – New Years' Eve

I, personally want to wish all of my VFW Comrades and Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters a very Happy Holidays and a safe New Year.

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NOTE: Program Reporting is now available on the Dept. website ([www.vfwauxsd.org](http://www.vfwauxsd.org)) under Log-in; then go to Report Entry. Be sure to register your activities throughout the year!