

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

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

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

Auxiliary Youth Activities allows us to teach our nation's youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, veterans and service members. Auxiliary members should engage youth in positive volunteer experiences and believe every young person can find a place to serve that will improve their lives, as well as the lives they touch.

REMINDER: "Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue" singing contest is no longer a part of this program. Don't forget about the ***Illustrating America*** art contest. This is a wonderful way for area youth to express their vision of America and how Veterans have made our country a better place.

Summer is a great time to promote the "Illustrating America" art contest. This break from school times gives them an opportunity to begin work on their entry. There are three (3) grade divisions – K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 with first, second and third place awards in each division.

Has your Auxiliary determined the different youth groups you are going to work with this year? Keep in mind that youth can be involved in all Auxiliary Programs. Think about how youth in your community can be included in other Auxiliary Programs – have youths volunteer with your members during an Auxiliary Outreach event; take a youth group to the VA and have the kids read to the veterans (Hospital); have the youth hand out stick flags to Veterans in the local nursing home (Americanism & Hospital). Lots of ideas can fit into this program. Have fun with it!

Check with your local library to find out what summer reading programs they have established. To assist with your community library programs, utilize the Patriotism through Literacy program. 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.

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