

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary

Youth Activities

Bulletin June 2024

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*

Department Theme: *United in Service for Veterans*

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.

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 PROGRAMS. “Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans” citations is a great way to recognize these groups for their efforts and service projects that honor and assist service members and their families.

Here are some examples of youth groups ready for VFW Auxiliary sponsorship:

- Youth sports teams
- Church youth groups
- After-school programs
- Youth-focused organizations
- School clubs
- Home-school associations
- Community youth service groups
- Nonprofit youth advisory councils
- Service learning & civic engagement sections in high schools & colleges

Check with your local library to combine Patriotism through Literacy with a reading activity. Perhaps books can be donated to libraries and Veterans from the community can read to kids on a regular basis. This is a great way for kids to connect with Veterans and understand what they have done for America.

Think about how youth in your community can be included in other Auxiliary Programs – 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!

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