

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary  
Youth Activities  
Bulletin March 2025**

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

***Illustrating America*** youth art contest deadline is fast approaching. All entries MUST be into your local Auxiliary by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Entries must have the newest application (2024-2025) affixed to the back of the artwork or they will not be accepted. Entries can have the applicant's name and grade on the back of the art entry. Please make sure that all of your students receive a Thank You for participating; this type of recognition is important to our youth.

This art contest DOES NOT get judged at the District level. The National paperwork indicates it is optional, but ALL entries from Auxiliaries are to be turned into the Department Chairman for judging no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. Department winners are to be in National's hands by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Contest Rules:**

- Student name, age and grade-level must be printed on the back of the submission.
- Entry must have been completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas (stretcher frame or canvas board) or paper (reinforced with heavy paper).
- Mats (mounted or floating) may be used.
- DO NOT frame the art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" X 10" and not larger than 18" X 24" INCLUDING the mat.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography ARE NOT accepted.
- Entry form must be completed and submitted with the art entry.

Here is a great idea done by one of South Dakota's VFW Auxiliaries – a group of young folks constructed Valentines that were distributed at the SD State Veterans Home, VA Medical Center and local nursing homes. The cards also had a crossword or word search included with a pencil for completing them. These small gifts were greatly appreciated by the Veterans and family members receiving them. This same idea could be used for upcoming holidays like St. Patrick's, Easter or May Day.

The time and funds spent in making the cards with youth is reported under Youth Activities. Delivery to the VA and nursing homes would fall under Hospital.

Please remember to submit information about your Auxiliary's activity or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth. The most outstanding South Dakota Auxiliary activity could win \$25.00 and a National Citation. Entries MUST BE TO ME by March 31, 2025 for judging. The entry form is included in the Youth Activities Resources.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me.

Thank you for your service to our Veterans and being a Mentor to our Youth.

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