

General Orders April 2026
Youth Activities 2025-2026
Darnell Bohlander, Dept. Chairman
515 21st Ave NE
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 290-8942
darnellbohlander@yahoo.com

DEADLINES ARE FAST APPROACHING!!

Please note that the Youth Activities "National" Program Awards Entry Form is due to me by March 31, 2026 for judging. I will send the Department-winning entry form to Shannon Stanley, our National Youth Activities Ambassador for National judging.

- This entry form is also available in MALTA, under Member Resources – Youth Activities – Award Forms – "Youth Activities Aux. Award No. 1". This is not a fillable form. You will have to print it off, complete it and then mail it in.

As of March 20, 2026, I have received one "National" Program Awards Entry Form from Tomzcak-Bartels, #1776, Huron. There is still time to get your Auxiliary's entry form sent to me too. Thank you.

Also, please notice in MALTA, under Member Resources – Youth Activities – Illustrating America Certificates - that there is an "Illustrating America Certificate (fillable)" and "Illustrating America Recognition Certificate."

The following is from Shannon Stanley, our National Youth Activities Ambassador:

Promoting our Illustrating America Contest

Did you know that art can be therapeutic for youth as well as a wonderful way for our children to express themselves and show their creativity? I am encouraging all our members to work on promoting our Illustrating America Contest. The Illustrating America Contest is open to our elementary and junior high school students, with three age groups: kindergarten-second grade, third-fifth grade and sixth-eighth grade. I do know how hard it is to get into the schools, so once again I challenge you to take information to your local art studios, churches, day cares and scouting groups and to always think outside the box. Please check out the rules and regulations; remember that the information for Illustrating America contest can be found on the Member Resources page on MALTA and on our National website.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- March 31: Student entries are due to participating /sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- April 15: First-place winner from each participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.

Please remember that artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the student if not advancing to the next level.

As of March 20, 2026 I have not received any Illustrating America Contest entries. Please reach out to your contacts and see how they are coming.

SD Department Year-End Reports are due April 15, 2026. I have received Year-End Reports for Youth Activities from the following:

District 4: Milbank

District 6: Redfield

District 7: Parkston, Tyndall and Winner

Thank you to these Auxiliaries and I look forward to receiving more by April 15, 2026.