

General Orders March 2026
Youth Activities 2025-2026
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Happy Spring! The snow is melting in Aberdeen now. Hopefully, it is melting in your area too and everyone is able to make those in person contacts with your schools, scouting groups, libraries, etc. Just a reminder to get year-end reports completed.

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.

- I have emailed this “National” Program Awards Entry Form to the Auxiliaries Youth Activities Chairman.
- 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.

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.

Please remember to follow all the rules and regulations when promoting our contests and that everything you need, from the entry form and certificates to a press release can be found in MALTA Member Resources under the Youth Activities tab and on the National website.