

Youth Activities



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Involve the youth in showing that *It's Time for America's Military Heroes!*

Ah, youth! Don't they just push a breath of fresh air into you? All their excitement and enthusiasm brings about excitement with our Auxiliary members, too. They are the future of our country and our organization. **GET THEM INVOLVED!** We have many ways to get them involved in our programs. We have the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, the Junior Girls Unit, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and other activities for our youth. Educate your members about our programs for the youth.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

This scholarship program can provide much-needed money for college. Art containing patriotism will fill the hearts of all who see it. The time is now to promote this program even more than ever. Young Americans need funds for college. This contest is for students in grades 9-12. They are to express their patriotism through their art. Eight scholarships will be awarded on the national level. The top prize is \$10,000. Other prizes range from \$5,000 to \$500. Contact your local schools and introduce this program to the art teachers. Also, remember to encourage home-schooled students through publicity about our program.

Brochures and entry forms are available for download on our Web site under "Documents & Brochures" at www.ladiesauxvfw.org. You can also order brochures from our Supply Department.

JUNIOR GIRLS UNITS

Our Junior Girls Units contribute to our future as an organization. Sponsoring a Unit assists our Auxiliaries in the activities we do in carrying out our programs. Young ladies from ages 5-16 who have eligibility can be members of these Units. Having a Unit can assist Auxiliaries with hospital visits, teaching youngsters the Pledge of Allegiance, marching in parades, raising funds for Cancer Aid & Research, collecting UPC symbols for the VFW National Home for Children, to name a few. With the current conflicts our military are involved in, we have more young girls than ever who are eligible for the Junior Girls Unit. Have a recruiting drive with your Post and Auxiliary. When they recruit new members for the Post and Auxiliary, recruit for the Junior Unit and bring us back to a family organization. Participating in a Junior Girls Unit is a way for our young women to gain the confidence and poise that will help them with leadership in their future.

We have a scholarship program for members of Junior Girls Units. Girls ages 13-16 can apply for a scholarship in their Department. Department winners are submitted to National for the national scholarship judging. The national winner will be awarded \$7,500. In addition, \$100 will be awarded to each Junior Girl who is selected as the Department winner and entered in the national competition. National first-place winner of the scholarship will not receive the \$100 award.

OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There are many other activities we can offer the youth of our communities. Sponsor a Junior ROTC Unit, a Scout troop, a bowling team or a softball team. Assist youth groups to support our troops. Have special holiday parties for the less fortunate in your communities, assist with student hunger drives and have holiday parties for your members' families. Teach patriotism to the youth of your communities by assisting your Americanism Chairman in visiting classrooms and teaching about our flag and assisting in teaching the Pledge of Allegiance. Invite young people to assist in your Buddy Poppy distribution. Offer safety programs to the youth of your community by having a safety fair.

Few youth programs provide a greater benefit to an Auxiliary than involvement with a Junior ROTC unit. This program produces individuals with an

appreciation for patriotism, civic responsibility and military service. As Junior ROTC cadets, these individuals are often a great asset to an Auxiliary by helping them with Auxiliary projects such as placing flags on graves on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, helping to distribute Buddy Poppies, providing Color Guards and assisting with Auxiliary public events. Contact a local Junior ROTC Unit to get involved.

AWARD FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

For each program award, unless otherwise noted, \$25 to first-place Department and a keepsake to the Chairman; second-place Department will receive \$15 and a citation to the Chairman.

1. *Citation to each Department Chairman with at least 80% participation by Auxiliaries.
2. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest.
3. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion of recognition for the participants of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest.
4. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion of JROTC sponsorship and involvement.
5. *\$25 to the Department for each Junior Girls Unit instituted from July 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010.
6. Outstanding Performance Award in each membership group based on the criteria on Page 1.

AWARDS FOR JUNIOR GIRLS:

1. *Each Junior Girls securing two new Junior Girl members from July 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 will have her name entered in TWO drawings for \$50 each time she secures two new members and reports them on the official form to the National Headquarters. List must be verified by the Youth Activities Chairman and sent to National Headquarters by April 30, 2010.
2. *Hospital Service Pins (only one to a member for each category) for completing 50, 100, 200, 300, 400 or 500 hours

of volunteer service in a VA Hospital or other hospitals, nursing home, or combination of the three. To be eligible, hours must be certified by the facility, reported to the Department YOUTH ACTIVITIES Chairman and sent to National Headquarters.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

1. Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition: The first-place winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship, a plaque and airfare plus two nights' lodging for the winner and one adult chaperone and per diem to attend the 2010 Ladies Auxiliary National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition, the first-place winner's art will be featured on the cover of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine and on the Ladies Auxiliary Web site. The second place winner will receive a \$5,000 Scholarship; third-place winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, and the fourth-place winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship; fifth- through eighth-place will each receive a \$500 scholarship. The second- and third-place winners will be featured in the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine and on the Ladies Auxiliary Web site.
2. *Junior Girls Scholarship Competition: The first-place winner will receive a \$7,500 scholarship and a plaque. The plaque will be mailed to the Department for presentation at the winner's school, if possible. \$100 to each Junior Unit member who is selected as the Department's winner and entered in the National Scholarship Competition. Note: The first-place winner will not receive the \$100 award in addition to their scholarship.
3. *A citation to any youth group for supporting our military heroes. Report must be submitted to National Headquarters on form provided.

AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:

"It's Time for America's Military Heroes" Plate to the National Chairman based on quality and timeliness of material.

***NOTE: Winners will be published in the Year-End Officers' and Directors' Report and awards will be mailed to the 2009-2010 Department President for distribution.**

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