

Scholarship Guide Sheet No. 1

Hello Everyone,

July 2020

My name is Carolyn Patch and I am this years Scholarship Program Chairman for the Department of Indiana VFW Auxiliary. As with our other programs this year, we are facing some unprecedented challenges with the COVID 19 pandemic. Most places are trying to get back to some semblance of normal but this will take time and guidelines will vary from county to county. The Governor has decided that schools may re-open as of July 1st with certain CDC guidelines in place. At any rate we need to be there to help get the ball rolling with all of the contests that fall under the Scholarship Program. Though the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen scholarship programs are the VFW's and not the Auxiliary's, it is our duty to not only help our Comrades promote these programs but it is a great way to engage our youth and promote all of our programs in our respective communities.

With 555 public high schools, 127 private high schools and more than 550,000 students annually enrolled in our Indiana high schools, each and every Auxiliary should be able to participate with the students and teachers in their communities. Something that I have found to work well for our Post and Auxiliary is to find out who the Comrades chairman are for VOD (Voice of Democracy) and Patriot's Pen. We then put together packets that include a cover letter from our Post Commander explaining the programs , applications for the programs that have included the Comrades and Auxiliary Chairman's contact information and the Post home's contact information. We also include in these packets our Smart-Maher Teacher of the Year applications, Patriotic Art applications as well as any other information on programs that are available to students or Teachers at all grade levels. This year to help maximize all of our programs while mitigating contact, I would like to suggest that we work with our other program chairman that would benefit from the same contacts as the Scholarship Programs use ie; The Smart-Maher which falls under Americanism or the promotion of Patriotism through Literacy and Illustration of Patriotism through Art which falls under Youth Activities. Working with these other chairman will help to keep our contact more centralized and yet provide us with optimal outreach. Thinking and planning outside of the box is going to be a challenge for all of us this year so let's put our thinking caps on and in the immortal words of Larry the Cable Guy "Git-R-Done".

The theme for the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay this year is "**Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned**". The theme for this years Patriots Pen Essay is "**What is Patriotism to Me**". Both of these are due to the Posts by 12 midnight on 10/31/20. More details and report forms will be available in the August General Orders. Packets with information and report forms will be available to all Auxiliary and District Presidents at the School of Instruction. We will also be holding raffles throughout President Anna's term to raise money for the Young Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund. The more money that we can raise for this contest the more of these wonderfully talented youth's we can recognize at National. I am requesting that Even numbered Auxiliaries in Districts 1-5 bring an item to donate for us to raffle off. I am planning some special awards for the Scholarship Program this year so look for more information to follow on that. Wishing everyone a great summer staying safe, healthy and thinking of ways to promote these very important contests.

Loyally,
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