

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Programs

Are you a Dinwiddie County High School student who is planning on attending college? Do you need help paying for college? If so check out the Veterans of Foreign Wars scholarship programs.

Since 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars invite High School and Middle School students to compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students at the high school compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. Students at the Middle School write an essay on an annual patriotic theme.

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and National level. The National winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in March 2019. The trip will be hosted by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$154,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

**Voice of Democracy:** The Voice of Democracy is open to High School students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. This year's Voice of Democracy theme is, "**Why My Vote Matters**".

To enter the program the students need to record their original essay no less than 3 and no more than 5 minute (+ or – 5 seconds max.) onto an audio CD or a flash drive.

The students will submit their recording, typed essay and an entry form to their local VFW Post for judging. The Student Entry form is available at the county high school and must be received by VFW Post 12145 by October 31, 2018.

**Patriot's Pen:** is nationwide program that is sponsored by the VFW, which gives Middle School students in grades 6 –through 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. This year's Patriot's Pen theme is "**Why I Honor the American Flag**". Last year the VFW invited more than 120,000 students who participated in this contest. At VFW National the state's first place winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the winner and a parent or guardian. The Student Entry form is available at the county middle school and must be received by VFW Post 12145 by October 31, 2018.

**Teacher of the Year:** Each year the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each year, a classroom elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics — for at least half of the school day in a classroom environment — can be nominated for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Winners receive: The Teacher of the Year Entry

form is available at all of the county schools and must be received by VFW Post by October 31, 2018.

- \* A \$1,000 award for professional development expenses.
- \* A \$1,000 award for his/her school.
- \* Two award plaques: one for the teacher, the other for his/her school.
- \* An all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW conference to receive their award.

**Scout of the Year:** Our Scout of the Year program provides members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country with the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to \$5,000. Each year the VFW honors three young people - from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts or Venturing Crew - who have demonstrated exceptional citizenship in school, scouting and the community. The first-place winner receives \$5,000. The Scout of the Year Entry is available at the county high school and must be received by VFW Post 12145 by March 1 2019.

The applications for these programs are on the website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). For additional information about these programs contact Dinwiddie County VFW Post 12145 Commander David Dudley via e-mail at [armyvet2@juno.com](mailto:armyvet2@juno.com).