

2020-2021

Youth Scholarships For Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen

The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$30,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, these scholarships may be for you.

Voice of Democracy

Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, more than 51,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.9 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Want to apply? Read [the rules and eligibility requirements](#), and download the [2020-21 entry form application](#), as all student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring [local VFW Post](#) by midnight, Oct. 31.

The 2020-21 theme is:
Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?

Patriot's Pen

Each year more than 138,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$900,000 in state and national awards.

Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Want to apply? [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#), and download the [2020-21 entry form application](#) as all student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring [local VFW Post](#) by midnight, Oct. 31.

The 2020-21 theme is:
What is Patriotism to Me?