



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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VFW Kicks-Off Annual Essay Competition

<city>, <state abbreviation>. (<month> <day>, <year>) – Commander <full name> of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post <Post name/number>, announced the kick-off of the VFW’s annual Patriot’s Pen youth essay competition. Middle school students in grades 6-8 in this area have the opportunity to compete and win thousands of dollars in national awards.

The VFW enacted the Patriot’s Pen competition in 1995 to encourage young minds to examine America’s history, along with their own experiences in modern American society by composing a 300- to 400-word patriotic-themed essay. The theme for the <20XX-XX> competition is “<insert theme>.”

Students begin by competing at the local Post level. Post winners advance to District competition with District winners advancing to the state competition. State first-place winners compete for their share of thousands of dollars in awards, and the national first-place winner is awarded \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Each year, more than 125,000 students participate nationwide. Deadline for student entries is October 31, and interested students and teachers should contact their local VFW Post <Post number> by phone at XXX-XXX-XXXX or email the Post at <Post contact email address> for more information.

FOR DETAILS VISIT: <https://www.vfw.org/PatriotsPen>.

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ABOUT THE VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans’ organization. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With nearly 1.7 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in nearly 6,400 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans’ service organization is proud to proclaim “*NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS*” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at www.vfw.org.

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