

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

## BULLETIN #2

I hope you are all excited about making 2020-2021 a very rewarding year for our youth. It is very important that we have new and innovative ways to involve the young people in our community supporting veterans and that we have! Our children are not born with patriotism or love of country – these things must be taught and this is our job. So, as we open our hearts and minds, all the while listening to the children and being that positive influence, we can make our events and program so much fun and also truly touch the lives of our veterans.

We all know that due to the virus, our children may or may not be in the classrooms at this point. But we can help these families by possibly offering to help with school supplies, offer to open up our Post Homes with internet capabilities and offer to help supervise their school work – maybe you can help by being a tutor? Or, maybe you can read a patriotic book for story time. There are endless ways we can help struggling families during these trying days.

This year our focus will be on the following:

- ☺ Illustrating America Art Contest (K-8)
- ☺ Red, White and Blue National Anthem Singing Contest Program  
Ages 6-16
- ☺ Youth groups supporting our veterans
- ☺ Youth essay
- ☺ Patriotism Through Literacy
- ☺ Rap Coins



Let's all get excited for the **Red, White and Blue**! Children love to sing The Star-Spangled Banner just as they love to put their hand over their heart for the Pledge of Allegiance! This singing contest is a FUN way to promote patriotism. Our young people may sing the National Anthem in any style of their choice, i.e. rock and roll, hip-hop, pop, country, or any other form they wish. I am enclosing contest information and an application which can be found on the National website under Youth Activities – [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

As you develop your plans to hold the singing contest it would be most helpful to utilize social media. Some ideas are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, libraries, etc. And, please ensure you take lots of good pictures of this event!

Be in touch with local Boy and Girl Scout Troops – ask for their assistance in special fundraisers for such things as Fisher House, VFW National Home for Children, care packages for our active duty military, etc.

The holidays will soon be upon us and our youth can make cards and write letters to our bed-ridden veterans in nursing homes or those being shut-in due to the virus, as well as sending them to our deployed service members. Some of our youth may enjoy fostering a grandparent or service member – they love to have company and receive that added touch only a child can deliver!

We have a Patriotic Youth Award to work for this year and I know we are going to have an exciting time doing it because we will be making children happy to be an American!

Please keep me informed on your progress and let me know how I can help you.

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