

voice of
democracy



Veterans of Foreign Wars & Ladies Auxiliary

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post# 6342 Forestdale RI

Is pleased to announce that entries in the 2012:

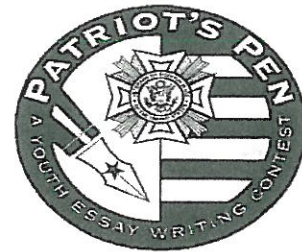
Voice of Democracy Program for students in grades 9 -12 and

Patriot's Pen Program for students in grades 6 - 8

Will be accepted until 26 October at the:

North Smithfield Public Library – Slatersville

Patriot's Pen
Are You Proud of Your Country?



Please see the accompanying entry forms for contest prizes and additional information.

For more information contact VFW Post# 6342 Program Co-Chairpersons:

George Hemond at 401-651-1462 and Linda Thibeault at 401-766-9564

Entry forms are also available on the VFW National Office website:

<http://vfw.org/Community/Voice-of-Democracy/> and <http://vfw.org/Community/Patriot-s-Pen>



voice of democracy



WHAT IS THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, more than 50,000 high school students compete for more than \$2.3 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, *Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?*

WHY SHOULD I ENTER?

Prizes and scholarships are awarded at the local, district, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 3-7, 2012, to tour the city, meet our nation's leaders, be honored by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$151,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

THE RULES

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to 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. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over and previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) essay on a standard cassette tape or CD. One student per CD or cassette. Preferred format for CD's is the audio CD format. When burning your CD, make sure that "Create Audio CD" option (or similar) is selected so the program can properly convert your sound file and burn it to CD. After it has finished, be sure to play back your audio CD on a system other than your computer, such as a standard radio or car CD player, to verify that the conversion/burning process was successful. Label the recording, neatly typed essay and attach this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or local VFW Post for judging. All recordings must be in your own voice. Hearing/speech impaired students should contact the Voice of Democracy National Office at (816) 968-1117 for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. You may enter only one Voice of Democracy competition per year.

Where do I submit my entry?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post providing they have not competed at a school/class competition.

One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. State winners are invited to Washington, D.C where their essays compete in the finals competition.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, call (816) 968-1117, e-mail to kharmer@vfw.org or visit our website at www.vfw.org.

2011-12 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() Home Phone E-mail

Date of Birth Grade in School

School Name, City, State

First Name You'd Like on Your Badge Jacket Size

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

() Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's E-mail

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES (ON OPPOSITE SIDE)

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant Date



Patriot's Pen

Are You Proud of Your Country?



Patriotic Essay Writing Contest
Grand Prize: \$10,000 savings bond

What is Patriot's Pen?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy with the prospect of winning U.S. savings bonds. We invite you to join the more than 112,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The top 46 national winners all receive at least a \$1,000 savings bond. The first-place award is currently a \$10,000 savings bond plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

Big National Prizes

Prizes include the various amounts of U.S. Savings Bonds listed below:

1st: \$10,000 Bond	7th: \$3,500 Bond
2nd: \$8,000 Bond	8-9th: \$3,000 Bond
3rd: \$7,000 Bond	10-11th: \$2,500 Bond
4th: \$5,500 Bond	12-13th: \$2,000 Bond
5th: \$5,000 Bond	14-15th: \$1,500 Bond
6th: \$4,000 Bond	16-46th: \$1,000 Bond

When is the deadline?

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by **November 1, 2011.**

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

How does the contest work?

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW National competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

Who can enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible.

Dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools can participate too. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National finals are excluded from the contest.)

2011-12 OFFICIAL STUDENT PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

Name: First, M.I., Last _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____
Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade in School _____ Essay Word Count _____

School Name, City, State _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEST RULES

Signature of Student Participant _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY POST

I certify that this student is an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____ Post # _____

Ladies Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

No. of students participating _____ No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. awards and bonds \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, plns, etc.) \$ _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY DISTRICT

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Department Competition, and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature _____

() _____ (Fax) _____
Daytime Phone _____

E-mail _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on _____. **Note:** National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to notify them of their national placement.