

VFW EDUCATION & TRAINING SERIES

VFW PROGRAMS



VFW Programs Overview

Community Services, Youth
Scholarships and Activities
Programs

Helpful Hints for Program
Execution

Veterans & Military Support
Programs



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VFW Programs

The purpose of this document is to help educate all elected and appointed officers of the organization about programs in the organization, from youth programs & scholarships, community service, volunteer recognition, “Buddy”® Poppy, to all programs under the Veterans & Military Support umbrella. Additionally, it will have information concerning U.S. Flag issues and a variety of special projects. Our sole priority is helping your Post, District and Department serve your community and veterans in a meaningful way. For that reason, the VFW National Organization is committed to doing everything possible to serve you and make every opportunity count for you and for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The purpose of this section is twofold. First, we want to familiarize you as leaders of your Post, District or Department, with the fundamentals of our VFW programs and activities. As we do that, it is our goal then to encourage you and your existing leaders to participate to build that much needed relationship with your local community. We are convinced that good programs, properly executed, will do more for your Post than anything else you do.

Your programs are often the first impression that the public has of the VFW. Therefore it’s extremely important to be prepared and more importantly appoint the right persons as the program chairman. Your VFW programs are defined under two categories; **Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities** and **Veterans & Military Support**. Within the **Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities** category we often refer to several program elements as our core programs. These are programs that are executed by the largest number of Posts and have the greatest impact on our organization, our communities and our veterans. Typically, these core programs are mandated for every Post as part of your Department All State Program and are heavily encouraged and supported by the VFW National organization. These core programs within the **Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities** include our scholarship programs; Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen, the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year program, Scouting, and “Buddy”® Poppy.

The second group of programs under the **Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities** umbrella, is called Special Projects and Activities, which cover Americanism, volunteer recognition, community service, awards and recognition and other miscellaneous youth activities. These programs are highly encouraged for all Posts and Departments and will be supported by the national organization upon request.

Before you can effectively execute our VFW programs, you first must know the programs. I recommend to all Post, District or Department officers and chairman, to carefully read the program chairman's guides to familiarize yourself with the programs that best fit your Post and your available resources. As a VFW leader, you should be able to speak intelligently and authoritatively about all aspects of our great organization.

The best available resource that we have available is our VFW website (www.vfw.org). I would strongly encourage you as officers and program chairman to establish a login. Doing so, will provide you access to all the information and materials concerning VFW Programs, but will also allow you to access additional information needed to help you execute your duties and responsibilities as an officer of the organization. Important items such as National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure & Ritual amendments and National Resolutions to be presented at the National Convention, our monthly National Headquarters Bulletin and General Orders, and several online fillable forms.

However, the most important benefit of having a login is being able to access MY **VFW**, where you'll have access to all materials and information within our **VFW Training and Support** section. This section contains videos, promotional materials, chairman manuals and resources, and much more on all available areas of the organization.

VFW Programs Overview

Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities

Patriot's Pen

