



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
December 2021/January 2022
www.wivfwaux.org



Can you believe that Christmas is right around the corner? We are quickly closing in on the halfway point in our Program year. Hopefully, you had a chance to distribute **GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE** and **ILLUSTRATING AMERICA** contest information and applications to youth in your area. Encourage them to promote their patriotism by entering these competitions and showcasing their wonderful vocal and artistic talents. They have a lot of time yet – their entries do not need to be to your local Auxiliary until March 31, 2022. Local first place winners must reach me by April 15, 2022.

NOTE: Please remind your students to read the rules carefully. Unfortunately, we had to disqualify a few entries last year because they did not follow all the directions.

Check out the Youth Activities Program Page on our Department website (www.wivfwaux.org) or on the National site (vfwauxiliary.org/resources) for copies of the rules, entry forms, judges scoring sheet, flyers, media releases, etc. You'll also find the **Youth Activities Award for Auxiliaries No. 1** entry form (for Auxiliaries that promote the **Illustrating America** Contest) on these sites. Why not go for it?



In this bulletin, I would like to focus on **PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY**. This program fosters a lifelong love of reading among our youth while introducing them to historical figures and important events in our nation's history. What child wouldn't be fascinated by the famous midnight ride of Paul Revere, how Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat helped to spur on the Civil Rights Movement, the enactment of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote, or the first steps on the moon by Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969? Your Auxiliary could volunteer to read historical or non-fiction picture book to kids, host a read-a-thon, run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors, or invite an author of historical fiction or creative nonfiction to do a book talk/signing in your area. If it is still difficult to directly meet with youth this year, I encourage your Auxiliary to donate one



or more books from the **Patriotism Through Literacy Suggested Book List** to your local library or school. You can place a label inside each book that shows that the donation is from your Auxiliary and is in honor of National President Jean Hamil. Both the suggested book list and the labels are found on our WI Auxiliary website or on the National Resource page under the Youth Activities Program. If you have a chance to do this, please share a photo with me – I'll also pass it on to National Ambassador Sheila Spaulding! Thank you in advance for promoting **Patriotism Through Literacy**. As former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy so finely put it, *"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."*

Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2022!

"Don't FUDGE on Care for Veterans" while "Soaring Above & Beyond".

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