

# 2021-2022 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2021 – National Award: \$3,000**

## What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

## Why Should I Enter?

The VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. It offers cash awards, commemorative plaques and all-expenses-paid trips to the VFW National Convention for these worthy teachers. The trip provides an opportunity for winners to network with like-minded individuals.

## How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

## 2021-2022 Official Entry Form

### Teacher Award Competition

**Must Be Completed by All Contestants**

Name: First, M.I., Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Taught \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State \_\_\_\_\_

### To Be Completed by the VFW Post

*I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Teacher Award Competition.*

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Post # \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature  
(If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Post Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Post Email \_\_\_\_\_

No. of teachers participating \_\_\_\_\_

No. of winners advanced to District \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(banquet, pins, etc.)

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**To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)** I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Chairman's Signature Dist #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Email

**To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman** I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairman's Signature

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Email

The winner  has been  will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner advances to District, if applicable, then one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/ContactUs](http://vfw.org/ContactUs) and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).

## What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

- All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2021.
- It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

## What Are the Judging Criteria?

- **Citizenship (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

- **Innovation (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

- **Resources (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

- **Passion (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org)*

## Local VFW Post Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Best time to call

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alternative Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Best time to call