

**National 2021-2022 Youth Contests as of 20210606**

**Voice of Democracy**- 1st place at national - $30,000 (Post/District/Department prizes vary)

Essay and Recording Theme: *Where Do We Go from Here?* (3-5 minutes); (No CDs; email files preferred) Grades 9-12; Details: [**https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education**](https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education) and [**www.vfwmd.org**](http://www.vfwmd.org)

S: To Post- 31 October; Post winner to District: NLT 15 Nov; District winner to Dept by 15 Dec.

**Patriot’s Pen**- 1st place at national - $5,000 (Post/District/Department prizes vary)

Essay Theme: *How Can I Be a Good American?*; 300-400 words; Grades 6-8; Details: [**https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education**](https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education) and [**www.vfwmd.org**](http://www.vfwmd.org) \* S: To Post- 31 October; Post winner packet to District: NLT 15 Nov; District winner packet to Dept by 15 Dec.

**Scout of the Year**- 1st place at national - $5,000 (Post/District/Department prizes vary)

Must be: Active, registered member of a Troop, Crew, or Ship; Ages-15-18 (in high school at selection)

Boy Scout w/Eagle rank; Girl Scout w/Gold Award; Venture w/Summit; Sea Scout w/Quartermaster

Details: [**https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education**](https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education) and [**www.vfwmd.org**](http://www.vfwmd.org) \*

S: To Post- 1 Mar; Winner packet (and names of other participants) to District 15 Mar; and to Depart 1 Apr.

**State 2021-2022 Youth Contests/Awards and Recognition**

**Buddy Poppy**- Q &A contest and recitation of *In Flanders Fields*

**Loyalty Day**- Q &A contest and recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*

Details: [**www.vfwmd.org**](http://www.vfwmd.org) \*(\*Members Only section-need VFW membership ID number to access the site);

S: Post Contests in early Nov; District contests in late Nov; Department level contest on 1 Dec 2021. Awards presented at the Department annual Awards Ceremony 30 Jan 2022 with PP, VOD, and Teacher awards.

**Other Recognition**- Junior and Senior ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet, Young American, Leaders, Volunteers, Community Service, Patriotic Service, Patriotic Citizen (nominating orgs request from Posts).

**National 2021-2022 Adult Contests**

**Civil Servants: Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, and Paramedic of the Year**

Nominee Packets to Post- 31 Oct; Post Winners to District 15 Nov; All Post winners to Department 1 Jan

Packets require: Nominee Information Sheet; one-page Resume/background; one-page listing of accomplishments; photo (head-shoulders) of nominee; Packets are available from [**www.vfwmd.org**](http://www.vfwmd.org)

Members Only section (need VFW membership ID number to access the site)

**Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year**- $1,000 at national

Contests for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12; Packets require: nomination form, nomination essay (max 350 words), one-page resume, photo (head-shoulders), up to five additional pages of documentation; additional detail at [**https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year**](https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year); S: Nominee Packets to Post- 31 October; Post winners (1 each category) to District NLT 15 Nov; District Winners to Dept by 1 Jan.