



Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States



&
the Ladies Auxiliary to the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of
the United States

voice of democracy



Department of South Carolina

WHAT IS THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 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 Our Constitution Still Relevant?*

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 2-6, 2013, to tour the city, meet our nation's leaders, be honored by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary and receive their portion of **\$152,000** 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.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

POST: NOVEMBER 1 to 15, 2012 FOR JUDGING

DISTRICT: NOV. 16 to DECEMBER 6, 2012 FOR JUDGING

DEPARTMENT: DEC. 7, 2012 to JAN. 7, 2013 FOR JUDGING

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION REPORTS TO STATE CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 2013

DEPARTMENT WINNERS TO NATIONAL BY: JAN. 15, 2013

DEPARTMENT REPORTS TO NATIONAL BY: JAN. 31, 2013

2012-13 Official Entry Form "Voice of Democracy" Competition

MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

Name: First, M.I., Last _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone () _____ e-mail: _____

Date of Birth (month) _____ (day) _____ (year) _____

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: (month) _____ (day) _____ (year) _____

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 _____

**ENTRY FORM MUST BE
COMPLETED ENTIRELY**



Official Rules for Students Advancing to the National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. I understand that state winners who do not attend as stated above will forfeit all rights to compete in the National Finals and will be replaced by their state's second place winner. In the event my tape is selected for entry into the National Voice of Democracy Competition, I do hereby for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees; waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the several Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the VFW Voice of Democracy Competition and/or arising out of my travel to and during the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my tape, essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY POST

I certify that this student is an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy 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. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, 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 Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature District No. _____

Address

City, State, Zip

() _____
Phone e-mail _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW STATE CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging and will attend the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Department Chairman's Signature

() _____ () _____
Daytime Phone Fax

@ _____
e-mail

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

Month: _____

Day: _____ Year: _____

Note:

National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to make travel arrangements for them to be in Washington, D.C.

ENTRY FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ENTIRELY

What are the judging criteria ?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

SOME ITEMS FROM THE VFW STORE



PATRIOT'S PEN LAPEL PIN – Full color with clutch back fastener.
1375 – Each . . . \$4.50
Dozen . . . 46.80



PATRIOT'S PEN POSTER – Measures 11 x 17". Ideal for grades 6-8.
Minimum order 10.
4433 – Posters, 10 \$5.00



PATRIOT'S PEN MEDAL SET
Medal set appropriate at any level. (Medals cannot be engraved by Supply Department but space is provided on back to engrave locally, if desired).
1377 – Per Set of three . . . \$16.50
(Sold as sets only)

PATRIOT'S PEN GARLAND PEN
Resin barrel, metal cap with chrome highlights and a full color Patriot's Pen logo on cap end. Medium point with blue ink and boxed.
1582 . . . \$9.95



PIN – Beautiful three color lapel pin is gold filled. Clutch back. For every contestant.
1317 – Each . . . \$4.50
Dozen . . . 46.80

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY MEDALS ALL SCHOOL WINNERS – Each set of 3 medals consists of: 1 gold color with blue ribbon for 1st place; 1 silver color with red for 2nd place; 1 bronze color with white ribbon for 3rd place.
1310 – Per set of three. . . \$16.50
(Sold as sets only)

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY MEDALS FOR CITY, DISTRICT OR STATE WINNERS. Gold, silver and bronze for first, second or third place.
1321 – Per set of three. . . \$23.00
(Sold as sets only)

Medals cannot be engraved by Supply Department, but space is provided on back to engrave locally, if desired.



STUDENT BROCHURE – Entry form and information concerning the Voice of Democracy program that can be used effectively in acquainting students and teachers with the purpose of the Voice of Democracy program, plus a brief synopsis of the rules. Ideal for passing out in schools. Grades 9-12. **Entry form deadline is November 1, 2011.**
4420 – 1 package (100) . . . \$8.00

PATRIOT'S PEN CONTEST BROCHURE – Describes programs to students. For grades 6-8. Available only in packages of 100 brochures. **Entry form deadline is November 1, 2011.**
4440 – 1 pkg (100) . . . \$8.00

