

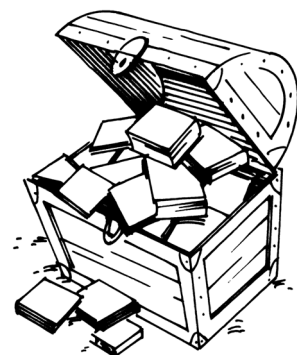


WI Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
December 2020/January 2021
www.wivfwaux.org



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 some **GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE** and **ILLUSTRATING AMERICA** contest information and application sheets to youth in your area. Whether they are in school or learning at home virtually, they can enter these competitions and showcase 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, 2021.

Jodie Hollinger, our National Youth Activities Ambassador, has a terrific idea about a program I talked about in my last bulletin – **PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY**. She asks that all our Department Youth Activities Chairmen donate a book from the **Patriotism Through Literacy Suggested Book List** to their local library or school in honor of National President Sandi Onstwedder. I encourage all our Wisconsin Auxiliaries to do the same! You can find the suggested book list on our National Resource page or on our Wisconsin Auxiliary webpage under the Youth Activities Program. You'll also see a file with a label that National created to place in the books donated. If you have a chance to do this, please share a photo with me – I'll also pass it on to Jodie! As the incomparable Walt Disney said, "There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."



In this bulletin, I would also like to emphasize how our Auxiliaries can recognize youth who give back to veterans and their community. Does your Auxiliary work with youth groups to help out veterans? Do you know boys and girls who have made cards for veterans, put together care packages for deployed military personnel, been a part of a food drive, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, carried an American flag in a parade, went caroling at a Veterans Home or Hospital, etc.? The Youth Activities Program has ways to motivate and award youth for their service to veterans, their community and their country. Your Auxiliary could nominate a youth group for a **YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS NATIONAL CITATION**. Individual youth can be recognized for their service with a **PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD** or a **RAP Card or Coin**. My Auxiliary gave a framed Patriotic Youth Award to a high school bugler who played taps at military funerals last year. All of these awards are easy to do and can be found on the National Resource Page or on our Department webpage. Youth who know that their service is being appreciated will want to step up and do more.



Merry Christmas and a blessed 2021!

"Soar Like an Eagle for Veterans" while "Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans".

Patty Jansky
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