

PATRIOT'S PEN PROGRAM

Chairman: Doug Rockwell
PO Box 951
North Hollywood, CA 91603
(818) 226-9146
E-mail: vietvetdoug@yahoo.com

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GUIDELINES:

The National Patriot's Pen Program is a youth essay contest conducted nationwide by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. This contest gives students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades the opportunity to express their opinion on an announced theme and improve their writing skills, while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Any student attending public, private or parochial schools with the exception of Exchange Students are eligible to participate in the Patriot's Pen Program. Students will compete for a \$10,000 Savings Bond and an all-expense paid trip to the National Convention.

Post and District Chairman should refer to the National VFW Programs Guide "VFW Scholarship Programs". Materials are available from VFW Emblem and Supply, or by visiting www.vfwdepartmentresources.org

THEME: "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?"

DEPARTMENT DEADLINES FOR 2009-2010:

Student Entry Deadline to the Post:	November 1, 2009
Post Deadline to submit to District:	November 15, 2009
District Deadline to submit to Department:	December 1, 2009
Package to Department Chairman Deadline	NLT: December 10, 2009

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY

To submit a Patriots Pen entry, please complete the following steps and forward this information to your District Patriots Pen Chairman.

1. Complete the Official Patriots Pen Competition Entry Form.
2. Entries cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Title not counted.)
3. All essays should be computer printed or typewritten in English with no color or graphics.
4. All entries should include a good quality head and shoulder photograph of your entering student. (School photographs best.)

District Chairmen will then forward the District entries to the Department Chairman. Note: All entries must be received by the Department Chairman **NO LATER THAN December 10, 2009.**

For Post's with no District Program please note that only one entry, per District, will be accepted by the Department Chairman.

The Department Chairman will select a state winner and forward that entry and any required reports to National. The Department Chairman will also provide Department Headquarters with a cumulative report of all of the Posts that participated, by District, which will then be used to give credit in the All-State Program.

HOW TO REPORT

Each Post that submits a student entry will receive ALL-STATE credit

All activities other than the student entry should be reported on-line via the Department website under **Youth Activities** at <http://www.vfwca.org/membertools/programform12rpt.html> or by submitting a report (Form-12) to the Department Patriots Pen Chairman.

Important! – To qualify for awards a Post must send a copy of the Program Reporting (Form 12) to the Department Chairman with all applicable attachments.

AWARDS

The first Place winner only will be brought to the Mid Winter Conference to read their speech. Second and Third place will be recognized locally.

First place	\$1,000.00 and a plaque
Second Place	\$ 750.00 and a plaque
Third Place	\$ 500.00 and a plaque

A plaque will be awarded at the Mid-Winter Conference for the most outstanding Post and District Patriots Pen Program as determined by the Chairman.