

Indian Rocks Beach VFW Introduction to Scholarship 25/26

The 2025-26 theme is: ***“How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”***

Each year, more than 87,000 6th through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$2.4 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW Youth Scholarships program.

Voice of Democracy Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy**® audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, more than 26,400 **9th through 12th** grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Students interested in participating must submit their audio essay prepared on this year's theme, with a [completed 2025-2026 entry form](#), to their local participating VFW Post, Indian Rocks VFW Post 10094.

Patriot's Pen Each year, more than 60,600 students in **6th through 8th grades** enter the VFW’s **Patriot’s Pen**® annual youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America’s history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Students interested in participating must submit their essay prepared on this year's theme, with a [completed 2025-2026 entry form](#), to their local participating VFW Post, Indian Rocks VFW Post 10094.

*Essays must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

I’ve included attached our local post flyer and both entry forms for the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot’s Pen. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Niko Troia

Jr. Vice Commander

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