

Local information on Patriot's Pen

VFW believes strongly in good citizenship and fostering patriotism.

Each year more than 131,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$54,500, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. 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. The 2019-2020 theme is "What Makes America Great."

Eligibility:

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U. S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U. S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

How to Apply:

Please download the application form at

http://vfwpost1351.org/ESW/Files/Patriots_Pen_Entry_Form_Fillable_2019-20_Post1351.pdf. Submission is to VFW Post 1351, 930 Ward St, Martinez, CA 94553, or by e-mail (richcheney@yahoo.com).

Prizes:

- VFW Post 1351 offers three cash prizes: 1st place - \$250; 2nd place - \$150; 3rd place - \$100. Winner competes in District 10. Winner of district 10 competes at state.
- District: \$300 for 1st Place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd
- California State: \$1,000 for 1st Place, \$750 for 2nd, \$500 for 3rd
- National awards total: \$54,500

Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000 7th: \$1,750

2nd: \$4,000 8-10th: \$1,500

3rd: \$3,500 11-12th: \$1,250

4th: \$2,750 13-22nd: \$1,000

5th: \$2,500 23-24th: \$750

6th: \$2,000 25-53rd: \$500