

Local information on Voice of Democracy

The Veteran of Foreign War (VFW) is proud to present the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. The scholarship is open to students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program. 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. The Voice of Democracy theme for 2019-20 asks high school students to reflect on “What Makes America Great.” The winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to tour the city, and receive their portion of \$154,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000 award.

The VFW established the Voice of Democracy program (VOD) in 1947 to provide the opportunity for the students to express themselves in regards democratic ideas and principles. Veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements and are recognized for the sacrifices, are the vision of VFW.

Eligibility:

The applicants must follow the given criteria:

- 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.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents
- Have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first-place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

How to Apply:

Please download the application form at

http://vfwpost1351.org/ESW/Files/Voice_of_Democracy_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: \$500 plus all expenses paid trip to Sacramento; \$200 for 2nd, \$150 for 3rd place.
- California State: \$2,000 plus all-expense paid trip to Washington DC; \$1,000 for 4 runners up, \$500 for all other contestants
- National: Top prize is \$30,000; other prizes range from \$16,000 to \$1000.



Veterans of Foreign
Wars
California District 10

San Francisco and East Bay
PRESS RELEASE



What: Annual VFW National Junior and Senior High School Scholarship
Senior High: Voice of Democracy Grade 9-12
Junior High: Patriot Pen Grade 6-8

Awards: Voice of Democracy

National \$30,000 scholarship
State of California: \$2,000 plus all expense paid trip to Washington DC
\$1,000 for 4 runners up, \$500 for all other
contestants
District \$500 plus all expenses paid trip to Sacramento
\$200 for 2nd, \$150 for 3rd place
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Patriot Pen

National \$5,000 scholarship
State of California: \$1,000 for 1st Place, \$750 for 2nd, \$500 for 3rd

District \$300 for 1st Place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd

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Requirement:

Voice of Democracy
<http://vfw.org/VOD/>
3-5 minute recorded CD on the theme topic plus typed copy.
2018 Theme **Why My Vote Matters**

Patriots Pen
<http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/>
300-400 word essay on theme topic
2018 Theme **Why I Honor The American Flag**

Entries: All entries should be submitted to VFW Post xxx NLT 1 Nov 2014

Contact: