

Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Program 2026

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 57,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is **"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"**

CRITERIA: The Voice of Democracy is open to 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. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or 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 not eligible for entry.

HOW TO SUBMIT: Students will submit their Voice of Democracy entries utilizing the Scholar's App Scholarship Platform, an electronic scholarship entry and tracking platform. Each Post will have their own flyer with a QR code for the Voice of Democracy scholarship program. Students will use the QR code to open the program and complete the recording, typed essay and the completed entry form. Once completed the student will upload it to their local Post for Jud