



Youth Activities Introduction

TO: National Ambassador, Department Presidents, District & Auxiliary Presidents, and Auxiliaries

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Department of South Carolina's Youth Activities Chairman for 2022 - 2023.

My name is Sharen Peterson and I was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. I enjoy all types of crafts and especially painting. All of my time is somewhat balanced between my family, the veterans and auxiliary, and all of the duties I have with the Auxiliary.

I joined the Auxiliary in August 2011 as a member of Auxiliary 5091 and later transferred to Auxiliary 10624 in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina under my husband's eligibility. My husband, Curtis W. Peterson, Jr., is a Desert Storm/Desert Shield retired career veteran from the U.S. Air Force.

During the years that I have been with the Auxiliary, I have held the positions of Auxiliary President, Secretary & Treasurer. Currently I hold the position of District 1 President (for my 3rd year), Treasurer for 10624 and hopefully - Conductress for the Department of South Carolina.

I am both honored and excited to be the Youth Activities Chairman this year and look forward to working with all the auxiliaries to have a successful year. It has

always been my belief that if we train our youth to love our country then they will be the ultimate patriotic individual and they will put our Veterans first.

Let us lead the youth by example and they will follow...

Sharen Peterson

Department of S.C. Youth Activities Chairman 2022 – 2023

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Youth Activities

Creating, Sponsoring & Working with Youth Groups
Remembering Our Veterans Will Help the Youth and the
History

Patriotic Youth Award

Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue
Patriotism through
Literacy Illustrating America

As Auxiliary members, we need to teach and demonstrate to the youth the responsibility of caring for our Veterans and their families. To learn by our actions, that this country is a masterpiece, and the youth are the pieces of the puzzle that we need to mold and oversee so our legacy will thrive and live on

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage one of the programs, including activities to honor our veterans or assist our service members and their families. Involving youth in your programs can bring new membership to your Auxiliaries – members will feel invested in your Auxiliary thus creating a bright future for Auxiliary, Veterans, and the Community as a whole.

Patriotic Youth Award: The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support for veterans, service members and their families. A fillable printable version of the form is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources – Under Youth Activities.



Illustrating America – What is Illustrating America: This is a patriotic art contest for three divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. To encourage student's artistic and creative abilities through drawings and paintings. This visual example of art will display the youth's ideas about America and their views. Their ideas will show through the drawings and paintings. All the winners for each grade division will be displayed at the National Convention.

Getting Excited for the Red, White, and Blue: This is a contest for grades K-12 at the local entry and will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. The contest consists of two (2) grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. The Department 1st place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to National Headquarters. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each grade division. Entry form at vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities for eligibility requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines: Local Auxiliary March 31st • Department April 15th • National Headquarters May 5th

Patriotism through Literacy: Promote and support reading among youth with this simply, fun, and potentially free (use your local library) initiative. Organize with an elementary school the auxiliary reading to the students in their classrooms. Introduce historical figures and events in our nation's history that will promote a lifetime of learning. Reading has many benefits, including improved grammar and writing skills, focus and concentration.



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Involving Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs: Youth play such an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all your programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans. In doing this, you will teach our youth to respect and take pride in our country, appreciate our military, and many other worthy efforts.

Youth Program Chairman

Sharen Peterson

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Youth Knowing Our History & Sacrifices...



Grave Beautification: Beautifying the gravesites & headstones of our Veterans will demonstrate to the youth that whether they die in battle or after living a long life, they continue to deserve our respect and remembrance.

- * Speak with a cemetery for permission to beautify the headstones & markers.

- * Access the VA's National Cemetery Administration's guidelines for cleaning headstones & markers at: <https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/cleaning.asp>.

- * Please follow the instructions to avoid causing damage or harm to the participants or the headstones.

Youth Becoming Leaders: Help our younger people to become leaders and in turn, develop them to identify their community needs and encouraging them to care for others.

This can be accomplished by:

- * **Food donations to distribute to military families in need.**
- * **Hold a fundraiser to benefit a school with school supplies and backpacks.**
- * **Promote a Holiday Gift Collection Drive for Toys, Clothing, and Gift Cards.**

Youth Activities Reporting Form

1. Youths Participating in:

Grave Beautification: _____ Food Donations & Distribution: _____

Back to Supply Drive: _____ Holiday Toy Drive & Giving: _____

of Youth Participating: _____

Description: _____

2. Patriotic Youth Award:

How Many Youths Participated: _____

What activity was planned: _____

How did the Auxiliary Participate & Partake in the Event? _____

3. Illustrating America:

How Many Youths Participated: _____

What activity was planned: _____

How did the Auxiliary Participate & Partake in the Event? _____

4. Get Excited for the Red, White, & Blue:

How Many Youths Participated: _____

What activity was planned: _____

How did the Auxiliary Participate & Partake in the Event? _____

5. Patriotism Through Literacy:

How Many Youths Participated: _____

What activity was planned: _____

How did the Auxiliary Participate & Partake in the Event? _____

6. Veterans Citation/Award Program:

How Many Youths Participated: _____

Name of the Program: _____

How did the Auxiliary Participate & Partake in the Event? _____

****FURTHER EXPLANATION AND DESCRIPTION CAN BE ADDED TO THE BACK OF FORM****

Committee Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

President: _____ Auxiliary #: _____ District #: _____

Number of Auxiliary Members Participated: # _____ Group: # _____

Total Number of Miles: # _____ Total Dollars: \$ _____ Total Number of Hours: _____

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