

# Patriot's Pen

## OFFICIAL STUDENT ENTRY FORM 2018-2019 MN PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS**

**\*\*Please include a photo of the student\*\***

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone

E-mail

Date of Birth (day, month, year)

Grade in School    Essay Word Count    School Name, City, State

Print Parent's Name(s)

Print Teacher's Name

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEST RULES**

Signature of Student Participant

Date

### **2018-19 Theme: "Why I Honor the American Flag"**

#### **What are the rules?**

- Students in 6th, 7th and 8th Grade may enter
- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words.
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typewritten in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated.) Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

#### **Deadline:**

The completed essay, entry form, and picture of student must be in the hands of the VFW Post Chairman by midnight **OCT. 31, 2018**. In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay. Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Essays must be written exclusively for this competition. Use of the same essay for other competitions will result in disqualification. Contestants are allowed to enter only once (one Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received.

The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

**Note:** All entries must be submitted to a VFW Post competition.

If you have difficulty identifying a sponsoring Post in your area, call the VFW Department of Minnesota:

(651) 291-1757 or e-mail: [melodymnvfw@vfwmn.us](mailto:melodymnvfw@vfwmn.us)

-OVER-

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY POST** Due to District By **NOV 15**

I certify that this student is an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

Ladies Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature

Post Address

City, State, Zip

No. of students participating \_\_\_\_\_ No. of winners advanced to District \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Of Post/Aux. awards and bonds \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Post Chairmen:** Please be sure to include a written copy of the winning entrants speech and a **PICTURE** of the entrant when you forward it to the District Chairman.

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW/AUXILIARY DISTRICT** Due to Dept. By **Dec 6th**

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the 2018-2019 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

The winner will be notified that they are the first place District winner on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

District Chairman's Signature

Dist #

Date District Winner will be Informed

Address

City, State Zip

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone

E-mail

**District Chairmen:** Please be sure to include a written copy of the winning entrants speech and a **PICTURE** of the entrant when you forward it to the District Chairman.

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN**

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the 2018-2019 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National judging.

Department Chairman's Signature

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax

E-mail

The winner will be notified that they are the first place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to notify them of their national placement.