

The deadline for submitting the Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen packets to National is **January 15** (whether or not the winners have been actually notified that they are the official first place Department winner.) Department winners must be notified by **January 31**.

The Department Voice of Democracy Winner Packet:

- 1.) **Official Student Entry Form** (National will NOT contact your winner until after the Department has officially notified the student that he/she is the first place Department winner as directed by the date indicated in the Department Chairman section of the official student entry form.)
- 2.) **Typed Essay**
- 3.) **Recording of Essay** (Must be a good quality sound recording. Please review the recording for quality, length (should be 3 to 5 mins) and ensure the student does not identify themselves within the essay (i.e. name, city, state, school, national origin, etc.) before submitting to National.
- 4.) **Head/Shoulders Photograph** (Should be a clear, close-up shot of head and shoulders.)

NOTE: Upon our receipt of the Voice of Democracy winner packet, and after the student has been notified by the Department (must be done by **Jan 31**). The VFW Programs Department will arrange and pay for transportation to Washington D.C. Airline tickets and further information will be sent from this office directly to the Department winner.

The Department Patriot's Pen Winner Packet

- 1.) **Official Student Entry Form**
- 2.) **Typed Essay** (Count the words before submitting to National; should be 300-400 words.)
- 3.) **Head/Shoulders Photograph** (Should be a clear, close-up shot of head and shoulders.)

NOTE: Only the **first place national Patriot's Pen winner** (announced in early February) is invited to Washington, DC and to attend the Parade of Winners ceremony, with one parent (all-expenses paid for both.) VFW Programs Department will arrange and pay for transportation to Washington D.C.

Reporting for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

DEADLINE: January 31

All Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen participation reporting is completed on the All-American Dashboard, starting at the Post level. Once the Post completes their judging and forwards their winners to the District Chairman, the Post Adjutant must enter the participation stats (Auxiliary participation, number of participating students, number of winners advanced, monetary awards and additional money expended) into the dashboard. When the District and Department approves your participation report National will approve and turn status to MET in the dashboard. This process will ensure each Post receives credit. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-american-dashboard, behind the login.

Questions? Please contact Nick Lopez at:
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