**VFW Department of Washington**

**Scouting Program**

**The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US established several Youth Programs that help instill attributes needed to guide our youth on their path to become our Nation’s future leaders. These attributes include, but are not limited to citizenship, personal responsibility, community service, volunteerism, loyalty, and honoring veterans. Scouting is the perfect youth program because it reinforces all these attributes.**

**The Department of Washington Scout Team is charged to manage the Scouting Program. Because effective communications between the Scout Team and members is essential, the Scout Team is working to ensure all information relating to the program is accessible from the Department website. In the meantime, a summary of Scout-related activities is listed below. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Chairman**

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**National VFW Scout of the Year Contest:**

Annually, the VFW recognizes individuals (Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Sea Scout Quartermaster Award, Venturing Summit Award) scouts, who rose above their peers in exemplifying the exceptional qualities of their rank.  The program changed last year. In this nationwide program, the State winners are recognized with a Nation Award certificate

In the selection process, local posts select 1 winner from the received applications by March 1st. Entries must be to the District Chairman by March 15th, and to the Department Chairman by April 1st.  The 1st Place winner receives $500, 2nd Place $300 and 3rd Place $200.

**How to Enter:**

Scouts should download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, resume of high school activities, scouting record, head & shoulder picture, community Service record and letters of recommendation to 1 (only) VFW Post.

ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION IS DUE WITH SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL POST

Applications can be found at: https://www.vfw.org/community/Youth & Education/scout-of-the-year-scholarship/

**New this year, Washington State Scout of the Year scholarship contest:**

This new program will recognize any youth in a Scouting Program.  There is no rank or age requirement. We are looking for Scouting leaders to submit their outstanding Scout for recognition at the State level.

**How to Submit:**

Leaders should submit a Nomination Form to their Local Post by February 1, One Post winner for each scouting program must be to District Chairmen by March 1, and one District winner to the Department Chairman by April 1.  The form should provide the background information on the Scout’s accomplishments leading to this recognition recommendation.  Note: This is a new program, established because of the change at the National VFW level. The 1st Place winner receives $500, 2nd Place $300 and 3rd Place $200. Nomination Form is available at vfwwa.org/programs/scouting program.

**VFW Department of Washington**

**Scouting Program**

**POST – DISTRICT PROGRAM PLANNING TIMELINE**

**The National VFW Scout of the Year program provides recognition to all Scout Youth who earned their program’s highest Award.**

**A new Washington State Scout of the Year scholarship program is being started this year to recognize any Scout with no rank or age requirement.**

**AUGUST**

Posts need to identify 1 of their members to be responsible for overseeing Scouting. It would be a benefit if that member has knowledge of the Scouting Programs and how to reach scout units.  Identify Scout Units within the Post’s area, obtain/update contact information for the leaders of each unit, and contact BSA District’s Key 3.  Identify the date, time, and location for the Scouts monthly District Roundtables (Scout Leader meetings) and similar activities for Girl Scouts.

**SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER**

Distribute Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen scholarship information as you establish your relationships with Scout leaders and groups.  This will help to strengthen the VFW Youth Scholarship programs and increase our involvement with the Scouting youth in your area.

**NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER**

Distribute both SOY contest information to scout leaders personally at the monthly District Roundtable meetings, to the BSA District’s Key 3, and the BSA Eagle Scout Board of Review chairman and similar activities for Girl Scouts.  The information to be distributed includes applicant eligibility, documents needed to be included in the packet, the deadline of February 1st for the recommendation letters for the new WA State SOY, and the deadline of March 1st for National VFW SOY applications to reach the Post.

**JANUARY**

Repeat distribution of information on programs.  Remind Scout Units that SOY applications must be turned in no later than February 1st (State SOY) or March 1st (National SOY).

**FEBRUARY**

Identify Post judges (3 to 5 Judges) and discuss with them their responsibilities.  The Post Scout Team member or Jr. Vice will select the judges and schedule the date for judging.  Letters of recommendation for WA State SOY, Posts select one winner for each scouting program.

**MARCH**

Post winners for WA State SOY to District and applications into Posts for National SOY contest by March 1st. Post level judging for the National VFW SOY must be completed and the 1 winning entry complete packet sent to the District Commander by March 15th.

District level judging on Post winners to be conducted and 1 winning entry complete packet for both SOY contests sent to the Department Commander no later than April 1st.

**APRIL**

Department level judging on District winners will be conducted.  The Department winner’s fully completed packet must be received at National by May 1st to receive a certificate for that SOY program.

**MAY**

Scout Community Service Report data is used to determine Scout Team Post of the Year.