

2015-2016 Themes for VFW contests announced

The Celina Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5713 and its Auxiliary announce the themes for this year's Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarships Contest.

Voice of Democracy

The theme for 2015-2016 is: **“My Vision for America?”**

Who is eligible: The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 (on the Nov. 1 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

What they have to do: Students should record their reading of the draft to an audio CD or flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds).

Why enter? : National 1st place=\$30,000 and Department 1st place=\$7,000

The top national prize for the Voice of Democracy is a \$30,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. in March. There are also local, district and state awards along the way. VFW Post 5713 will be awarding 3 places in local competition with the winner receiving a \$500 cash award.

Patriot's Pen

The theme for 2015-2016 is: **“What Freedom Means to Me”**

Who is eligible: All students enrolled in public, private, parochial high school or homeschooled in the United States, its territories and possessions, or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school in grades 6-8.

What they have to do: Essays must be no less than 300 words and cannot exceed 400 words. They should be submitted to the Post, along with the completed Patriot's Pen entry form no later than the November 1 deadline.

Why enter? : National 1st place=\$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond and Department 1st place=\$1,500 of every 15 entries to District Competition. Each of the post winners will receive a \$100 cash award.

Entries for both contests may be hand delivered to VFW Post 5713, 1118 West Logan Street, Celina or may be mailed to VFW Post 5713, PO Box 293, Celina OH 45822-0293. The deadline for us to receive all entries is Nov. 1, 2015.

Entry forms and rules are available in the Celina and Parkway Schools office or on the VFW Post 5713 website at www.vfw5713.com. To listen to last year's winning speech, go to the VFW National Website at vfw.org.

For additional information or questions, please call Candy Ward 419-586-1440 or Gerald Ward 419-586-3140.