

The Jesse W. Grisham Post 2259 Veterans of Foreign Wars and its' Men's and Ladies Auxiliary is again sponsoring the **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay competition. This competition invites your students in grades 9 through 12 to submit an essay and a three to five minute recording of their essay addressing **"Does America Still Have Heroes?"** Please note that there are appropriate modifications to the rules that are available to your students with documented disabilities. In addition, students who are home schooled are also eligible. The essays and audio recordings of previous national winners may be accessed at www.vfw.org/scholarships

Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. The first-place winner, who competes with all the first-place VFW state winners, receives a **\$30,000 scholarship** that is paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Besides competing for the top scholarship prize, as well as other national scholarships ranging from **\$1,000 to \$16,000**, each state's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Target.

The Voice of Democracy program is endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria and is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme. Awards are listed below:

1. The local level of a **\$500.00** US Savings Bond for first place, **\$250.00** US Saving Bond for second and **\$125.00** U.S. Savings Bond for third.
2. The District level will also award US Savings Bonds of **\$200.00** for first place, **\$100.00** for second, and **\$50.00** for third place.
3. The first place winner at the State level will win US Savings Bond scholarships of **\$2000** for first place, **\$1500** for second, and **\$1000.00** for third place winners.
4. The first place winner on the national level will be awarded a **\$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the student's American university, college, or technical school**. Other national winners receive awards between **\$1,000 and \$16,000**.

The deadline for submission is **November 1, 2009**. Please distribute the enclosed information to interested students and faculty at your school. All submissions should be mailed to the address below and must be postmarked **on or before 11/1/09**. The competition will be judged by representatives of Jesse W. Grisham Post 2259 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its' Ladies Auxiliary of Conway.

Please provide the following information along with your students' submissions:

1. Names of all persons involved in the Voice of Democracy competition so we may publicly acknowledge their contributions.
2. Your name.
3. Parents' names and addresses.

Please send your students' recording, copies of the typed essays, official entry forms, and the information listed above to:

Voice of Democracy Competition
C/O Gerald Reckman, VOD Chairperson
Jesse W. Grisham Post 2259
PO Box 667 Conway, AR 72033

We hope that you will support this effort on behalf of your students. If you, your faculty, or your students or their parents have any questions, please contact Robert Logan at rlogan@uca.edu or 327-1510 after 6pm or Darlene Goff at Darlene_Goff@nabholz.com or by calling her at 1-501-505-5100 daily before 5pm. Contact the national VFW on the web at www.vfw.org/vod.

Sincerely,

Gerald Reckman
Voice of Democracy Chairperson
VFW Post 2259

Enclosures:
Student Participation Information and forms
Contest Rules