

# Youth Activities

2018 - 2019 Chairperson – Christine Gittens

The Youth Activities Committee is responsible for promoting citizenship education for the youth of our community through the following activities:

## **A. Veterans In the Classroom**

- a. Around Veteran's Day Post members are encouraged to go into the community schools to explain and demonstrate that veterans are in our community and that they are like everyone else. We explain how we entered the service and why, what we did in the service, where we went and what we learned. The Youth Activities Chairperson arranges dates and times for the visits and recruits members to participate.

## **B. Voice of Democracy**

- a. The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program is for students in grades 9-12 and who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States. The theme of 2017-18 Voice of Democracy Program is: **American History: Our Hope for the Future**. Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of over \$3 million in educational scholarships.
- b. The student applicant prepares a 3 to 5 minute essay on an audio CD or flash drive. The essays are judged by committee members.
- c. Post 4108 awards a local winner \$750.00.

## **C. Patriots Pen**

- a. Each year more than 125,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$50,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at

the national level. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in March.

- b. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word written essay, expressing their views based on the theme of 2017-18 Patriots Pen Program: **America's Gift to My Generation**. The essays are judged by committee members.
- c. Post 4108 awards a local winner \$150.00.

#### **D. Scout of the Year**

- a. The Scout of the Year program provides members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country with the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to \$5,000.

#### **E. JROTC**

- a. VFW Post 4108 has a long and meaningful connection with the local JROTC element located at Redmond High School. We recognize the JROTC members for their community involvement and their help the many Post activities.

#### **F. Scholarships**

- a. Each year Post 4108 awards a \$1000.00 scholarship to a local graduating senior student. The students prepare a short essay on why they need the scholarship to continue their education. The essays are judged by committee members.

**Structure:** The Youth Activities Chairperson is determined by the Post Commander at the beginning of each Command period. The Youth Activities Chairperson recruits Post members as needed to support the various activities of the committee. Volunteer committee members may participate in one or all of the above listed activities.

***Budget:*** The Youth Activities budget is presented to the Budget Committee and approved by the membership for Youth Activities expenses.

***Reporting:*** The Youth Activities Chairperson is responsible for reporting Youth activities and budget expenditures at the monthly membership meetings.