



**VFW Scholarship Programs:  
Voice of Democracy  
2017-2018 Theme**

**"American History: Our Hope for the Future"**

Sponsored by

**VFW Post 1177 Loudoun County, Va.**

**Entry Deadline**

*Oct. 31, 2017*

Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$2 million in scholarships. It's 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. The National 1<sup>st</sup> place winner receives a **\$30,000** scholarship that is paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each (state) VFW Department wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2016-2017.



**How to Enter:** Loudoun County Virginia students should first draft their essay based on this year's theme: **"American History: Our Hope for the Future"**

For Students residing outside of Loudoun County Virginia, please go to this site to find a VFW Post near you!

<https://www.vfw.org/oms/findpost.aspx>

Students should then record their reading of the draft to a CD. The recording should be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes (plus or minus 5 seconds). Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student has created their essay and completed burning the audio version to a CD, they should submit their typed version, CD and the Voice of Democracy entry form (see link below) to VFW Post 1177, Attn: Voice of Democracy, 401 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg, Va. 20176" by 31 Oct. **Further directions are listed on the entry form.**

For more information or questions, contact [project1@vfw1177.org](mailto:project1@vfw1177.org) Attn: VOD.  
Applications are available at our Post Website: <http://www.vfw1177.org>

Savannah Wittman, a senior at Bret Harte High School, was named the 2016-17 Voice of Democracy first-place winner.



Savannah's speech on the theme, "My Vision for America," won her a \$30,000 college scholarship which she plans to apply toward her career in veterinary medicine. Savannah was sponsored by VFW Post 12118 and its Auxiliary in Copperopolis, Calif.

**Go to [www.vfw1177.org/VFWDC2017/](http://www.vfw1177.org/VFWDC2017/) to see and hear Savannah's winning essay presentation!**

Did you know the famous American journalist **Charles Kuralt** was also a Voice of Democracy winner?

**Check out his video at [www.vfw1177.org](http://www.vfw1177.org)**

