



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 1st 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** 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/ 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

