

TEACHER AWARD 2016-2017

GENERAL: Each year three exceptional teachers are recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and Patriotism to their students. The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom Elementary (grades K-5), Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12) teachers who teach citizenship education topics and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively. The VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award has never been more important than it is now. Good teachers, versed in Americanism and Patriotism, deserve our support and recognition. Please consider submitting at least one (1) nomination of an outstanding teacher from each Post in the Department of Kansas.

AWARDS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars initiated the National Citizenship Education Teacher award in 1999 to recognize classroom teachers for promoting citizenship education with their students. Each National Award teacher and his/her school will receive \$1,000, the Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart Award and a recognition plaque. The program brochure can be ordered from VFW Emblem and Supply.

The Department of Kansas will award a recognition plaque to the best nominee from each of the three (3) grade categories, K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Presentation of the award will be coordinated with the winning teacher's principal. The total Department program budget will be \$150 (\$50 per category).

DEADLINES: Post: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the Post Teacher Award Chair is February 15th. Posts may select one (1) entry for each of the three (3) grade categories K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 for submission to District. Post judging must be completed by February 28th utilizing the Teacher Award Judges Score Sheet.

District: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the District Teacher Award Chair is on or before March 5th. Each nomination must be submitted with the enclosed Post Teacher Entry Form and VFW Teacher Nomination Form. Districts may select one (1) entry for each of the three (3) grade categories K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 for submission to Department. District judging must be completed by March 15th utilizing the Teacher Award Judges Score Sheet.

Department: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the Department Teacher Award Chair is on or before March 20th. Each nomination must be submitted with the Post Teacher Entry Form District section completed. The Department will select one (1) entry for each of the three (3) grade categories K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 for submission to Department. Department judging must be completed by March 30th utilizing the Teacher Award Judges Score Sheet.

National: The deadline for teacher nominations to be submitted to the National Headquarters is on or before April 5th. Each nomination will be submitted with the Post Teacher Entry Form Department section completed.

(NOTE: Brochures, applications, score sheets and forms can be found at www.ksvfw.org/Programs.)

TAKE A VET TO SCHOOL DAY: The History Channel has developed a **Take a Vet to School Day** campaign to link veterans of all ages with young people in our schools and communities. Please consider supporting this campaign at the Post level by coordinating a **Take a Vet to School Day** in your community. This would be a great way to connect with school superintendents, principals and teachers and build the kind of relationship we need for our VFW Teacher Award Program.

Teachers can also register with the History Channel to receive 30 "Take A Vet To School Day" wristbands. More information is available at www.history.com/topics/take-a-vet.

If you need help with your Post Teacher Award Program or Take a Vet to School Day, please contact: Robin Ray, State Teacher Award Chairman, 701 E 56th St S, Wichita, KS 67216, (316) 522-7483, e-mail vfw@6957.kscoxmail.com Thanks!