



AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY

Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference and Student Recommendation Form
November 7 – 10, 2024 – Founding Forward at Valley Forge

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary will pay all expenses for incoming 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students selected to attend the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference to Founding Forward (previously known as Freedoms Foundation) at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The four-day weekend will provide fun, educational youth-oriented activities with dynamic speakers and sightseeing are the highlights of a trip that is sure to be long remembered. Space is limited and the number of students that will be selected will depend on the amount of donations received.

Student Recommendation Form, together with their essay, must be sent to Debra Gass, AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Americanism Officer at 4322 E Oakcrest Drive, Monticello IN 47960, postmarked no later than August 15, 2024. Hand-delivered entries may be given to me at the 2024 AMVETS National Convention in Springfield, Illinois.

The Essay theme is **“Why is it Important to Vote?”** The essay should be no more than 500 words, but not less than 250 to qualify. It can be handwritten legibly or typed.

After receipt of the Student Recommendation Form and Essay, students will be notified that they were chosen and will be sent a link to register with Founding Forward. This form needs to be filled out in its entirety as it asks for pertinent information. This is necessary to help make travel arrangements and more. Founding Forward uses a travel agency that is very experienced in making students travel. **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS.**



June 5, 2024

At the Spring 2024 NEC meeting it was approved to reserve 2024 donations made to Freedoms Foundation, now known as Founding Forward, to send additional students to the Annual Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference held November 7 -10, 2024. The cost of this conference, including travel and the conference fee, averages \$1,000.00 per student. These students will be sent in addition to the 9th grade Americanism Essay contest winners, sponsored by AMVETS National Service Foundation.

We are asking Departments to submit names of eligible students to be selected through a lottery to attend the conference. Students should be attending their 10th – 12th grades of high-school in the fall of 2024. Ideally students would be submitted by Departments for either outstanding work within their community or from AMVETS Americanism Essay contest applicants who were not selected as the 2024 9th grade winner. The Essay theme is **“Why is it Important to Vote?”** In addition to the lottery form the National Ladies Auxiliary is asking that ALL students submit an essay on the above topic. Essays should be no more than 500 words, but not less than 250. It can be handwritten legibly or typed.

The number of students selected will depend on the amount of donations received for 2023 - 2024. Mailed entries should be sent to me by August 15th, or they can be hand delivered at National Convention in Springfield, Illinois.

Once the student is chosen, a letter of congratulations will be sent which will include a link to Founding Forward where student will fill out a Registration Form. Once Founding Forward receives the application, travel arrangements will be made. Please be advised that the child may be travelling alone. Founding Forward uses a travel agency that is proficient in making these arrangements. The students travel is well thought out and in many cases, an experience in itself. It is highly recommended that you use the agency provided by Founding Forward. If there are any issues, the travel agency and Founding Forward work hand in hand 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you .

Debra Gass
National Americanism Officer
4322 E Oakcrest Drive
Monticello, IN 47960
(574) 870-2122
gassd@comcast.net

STUDENT RECOMMENDATION FOR SPIRIT OF AMERICA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

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