

# Voice of Democracy

Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves with regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Applications must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

The 2024-25 theme is:  
*"Is America Today Our Forefathers'  
Vision?"*