

2024-2025 Post All-State Program

The Department **Post All-State Program** is designed to recognize outstanding VFW Posts for their participation in all VFW programs, membership recruitment and community service.

To be considered for Post All-State honors the Post Commander must submit to the All-State Program Director a completed application to be received prior to May 1, 2025.

To be in contention for All-State Honors, a Post must meet the following criteria:

1. Post must be 102% in membership with new or reinstated members.
2. Post must be in good standing with all bylaws, audits, bond, etc. (Department Checklist)
3. The Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander must attend at least one in person Department sponsored VTS.
4. Post must submit an activity report by the 10th of the month for at least 10 months of the year.
5. Post must submit a Hospital Report by the 10th of every month for at least 10 months of the year.
6. Post must contact at least one of their respective State Senators, State Representatives, U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator's office quarterly, and report it on their monthly activity report.
7. Post must submit a Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entry to their District for judging.
8. Post must donate a minimum of \$125.00 to VMS (Veterans and Military Support. (VMS donation must be made through the All-American Dashboard on the National website.)
9. Post must host two (2) Safety programs covering topics such as Fire or Bike Safety, etc.
10. Post must host a symposium open to the public on PTSD, Veteran Mental Health, and Welfare and/or Veteran Suicide Prevention. Post may collaborate with other organizations and agencies. Posts should contact Doug Brinker, Mental Health Director for information about local agencies and organizations.

Posts must earn a minimum of 200 points with at least 100 points coming from Community Service.

Community Service:

Points may be earned in this category by choosing from the following:

- A. 10 points for posting Post's Colors (US Flag and Post Flag) at the National Home on Michigan Day. Colors must remain posted for the entire day. Either the Post Commander, Sr. Vice Commander or Jr. Vice Commander must register the colors.
- B. Post may perform a workday at Camp Trotter with 5 points granted for each member participating up to a maximum of 25 points. Workdays must be coordinated with the Camp Trotter Director.

- C. Post may perform a special project at the National Home with 5 points granted for each member participating up to a maximum of 25 points. The special project must be approved by the National Home beforehand.

Note to C: *Posts may earn the same points as above by performing a Community Service project in their area such as a canned food drive for a charity, park cleanup, etc. Project must be approved by the All-State Director in advance.*

- D. 10 points for Post for submitting at least one entry in either the category of Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Dispatcher or EMT/Paramedic of the Year.
- E. 10 points for performing a POW/MIA Ceremony on POW/MIA Day September 20, 2024. 15 points if open to the public. Ceremony with pictures must be reported to the POW/MIA Director.
- F. 10 points for a Post having an active Facebook and/or Website.
- G. 5 points for each Post member who volunteers at a Membership Table at a public event (maximum 4 members per event and 2 events). Must be reported with pictures showing conspicuous VFW signage such as tablecloth, banner, etc. to the Membership Director
- H. 5 points for sponsoring a child to Camp Trotter (maximum 4 children). A donation of \$375.00 to the Camp Trotter Scholarship Fund counts as one child.
- I. 5 points for a Post member doing an interview on either radio or TV talking about the mission of the VFW. Maximum 2 interviews. Must be reported to the All-State Director at the time of the interview.
- J. 5 points for Post hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive.
- K. 10 points for each submission of a candidate for New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award. One point will be given for any additional candidates. 15 additional points will be awarded to the Post if their entry is chosen as their District winner and 20 additional points will be awarded to the Post whose entry is chosen as the Department winner.
- L. 10 points will be awarded for the first submission of a nominee for VFW Member of the Year with 5 points awarded for any additional entries. 5 additional points will be awarded if a nominee is chosen as the Post winner but only if there was more than 1 nominee. 20 points will be awarded to the Department winner.
- M. 15 points will be awarded for the first submission of a nominee for VFW Employer of the Year with 10 points being awarded for any additional nominees. 15 points will be awarded if a nominee is chosen as the Post winner but only if there was more than one nominee. 25 points will be awarded to the Department winner.
- N. 10 Points awarded to any Post that submits an entry for a Post Special Project Award.
- O. 10 Points for submitting a nomination for one of the following Youth Activity programs:
- a. Junior ROTC Cadet of the Year
 - b. Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year
 - c. Scout of the Year Candidate (Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Scout Summit, or Sea Scout QM Award).
- Nominations must be submitted to Youth Activities Director Larry Thayer.

Mental Health and VMS:

25 points for hosting a Homeless Veteran Stand Down with representatives from such organizations as Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Employment Assistance, County Health Department, VFW Service Officers, County Senior & Veteran Services, Michigan Veterans Assistance Program, Housing Resources, Hygiene Resources (haircuts, etc.) and Mental Health Resources. Stand down specifics must be approved by the All-State Director in advance. Must be reported with pictures showing conspicuous VFW signage such as tablecloth, banner, etc. to the All-State Director.

Donations:

- a. 5 points for each \$25.00 donated to the following categories: (maximum 20 Points per category, maximum of 200 points total by donations):
 - i. National Home (to include Post donations made at the National Home on Michigan Day)
 - ii. Commander's Special Project is "Foxhole". Donations to the Commander's Special Project must be earmarked as such.
 - iii. Heroes to Hives
 - iv. Day of Challenges
 - v. Gold Star Mothers
 - vi. National Cemeteries
 - vii. Mental Health and Welfare (Department fund)
 - viii. VMS (OMS Dashboard, minimum of \$125)
 - ix. Scouting
 - x. Camp Trotter
 - xi. Homeless Veterans
 - xii. Cancer
 - xiii. POW / MIA
 - xiv. Fisher House of Michigan
 - xv. Michigan WWII Memorial
 - xvi. National Desert Shield / Desert Storm Memorial
- b. 10 Points for ordering a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies.

Donations made to support local community programs that support scouting, cancer treatment, veterans' mental health & welfare (to include direct assistance or support of programs such as Honor Flight) or homeless veterans (lodging and / or food programs) may receive credit for All-State Program purposes with proof of the donation (copy of check or receipt from the organization) provided to VFW Department Headquarters. Donations made directly to Fisher House, Michigan WWII Memorial or National DS/DS Memorial may receive credit for All-State Program purposes with proof of the donation (copy of check or receipt from the organization) provided to VFW Department Headquarters.

Captain of the Post All-State Team will be awarded to the Post with the highest membership percentage as of April 30, 2025.

The Captain of the Post All-State Team will receive a \$300.00 cash award at the 2025 State Convention. You must attend the State Convention to receive this award.

Each Post All-State Commander will receive an All-State Post Commander's cap, All-State Commander's pin, and All-State Commander's citation. Each Post All-State Quartermaster will receive an All-State Quartermaster's cap and All-State Quartermaster's pin.

A Post which meets all the requirements for Post All-State honors by April 30, 2025, will receive the Post All-State Award at the State Convention. However, a Post that has all their reports completed and the necessary number of points turned in by April 30, 2025, but is lacking the membership requirement has until June 30, 2025, to meet the membership requirement. Post All-State awards earned after April 30, 2025, but by June 30, 2025, will have their awards presented at the 2025 Fall Conference.

THE VFW NATIONAL WEBSITE WILL BE USED FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (www.vfw.org). NO EXCEPTIONS! ENSURE YOU ALLOW FOR PROCESSING TIME. THE DEPARTMENT CHECKLIST, DONATIONS PAGE, ACTIVITY REPORTS, AND DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE ALL-STATE STATUS.

To be considered for Post All-State honors the Post Commander must submit to the All-State Program Director a completed application to be received prior to May 1, 2025.

Michael Martin, All-State Director
199 East 34th St., Apt 2
Holland MI 49423
616-594-9151
allstate@vfwmi.vet