

STATE of MICHIGAN VFW

2025-2026 TEACHER of the YEAR PROGRAM

The VFW of Michigan recognizes the crucial role educators play in the development of our Nation's youth. The **VFW Teacher of the Year** program is one way we can highlight extraordinary teachers who dedicate themselves to building up students and teaching the importance of patriotism, service to others and love for the American people.

The VFW will recognize and honor the top Elementary (K-5), Junior High (6-8), and High School (9-12) Teacher of the Year who teaches citizenship and education topics, and promotes America's history, traditions, and institutions. Attributes considered will be the scope of the teaching on both students and the community.

Who can submit:

Fellow teachers, supervisors, or any other interested individual may submit nominations. Self-submitted nominations are allowed. The individual making the nomination must submit the nominated teacher's name on the completed VFW Teacher of the Year Nomination Form. Included with the form must be a 350 word or less description of why the nominee should be selected. Describe the teacher's innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his/her dedication to teaching. The nominations must be submitted to the local VFW Post no later than October 31, 2025.

Post requirements:

Post Commander/Chairperson will complete the application by ensuring that the following items are included. This is a mandatory list. Without all six items, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be judged.

- Original VFW Teacher Form (On the website this needs to be a link to the form.)
- Description of the teacher's methods (350 words or less).
- One page listing the teacher's innovations and accomplishments (may use both sides).
- Supporting documentation as Do not exceed five 8 ½ x 11 pages of documentation.
- National Smart-Maher VFW National Citizenship Advancement Form
- A quality head and shoulder photograph (wallet size).

It is encouraged to put the above in sheet protectors in a 3-ring binder to ensure that all documentation is kept together.

Note to Post Commanders/Chairpersons: Only one nominee per Post will be selected from each of the three categories. Selected nominations must be forwarded to District no later than November 16, 2025.

District requirements:

Each District will judge and select one nominee in each of the three categories. District Commander/Chairperson will complete the District portion of the National Smart-Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Advancement form. The selected Post Teacher Entry Forms with all supporting documents will be forwarded to the State Director. The deadline for District entries is December 16, 2025. Only entries from the District Commander/Chairperson will be accepted at the State level.

It is the responsibility of the District Commander/Chairperson to ensure that Posts have included all of the required items described above. If a Post's entry is incomplete, send it back to the Post for correction. Do not send it on to State.

District Chairpersons must provide to the State Director a report of all Posts in their District who have submitted nominations to District judging.

Deadlines:

Post—received no later than October 31, 2025.

District—received no later than November 16, 2025.

Department—received no later than December 16, 2025.

Awards

- Glass Apple
- Plaque
- \$500 Award Check

Michael Martin, Director

199 East 34th St., Apt 2

Holland MI 49423

616-594-915

scholarships@vfwmi.vet