

## State of Michigan

### 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year Program

The VFW Department 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 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, 2026.

#### **Post**

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.

- VFW Teacher of the Year Entry Form
- National Smart-Maher VFW National Citizenship Advancement Form (completed by Post and District)
- Description of the teacher's methods (350 words or less).
- One page listing the teacher's innovations and accomplishments (may use both sides).
- Do not exceed five 8 ½ x 11 pages of documentation.
- 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 will be selected from each of the three categories. Selected applications must be forwarded to District no later than November 16, 2026.

## **District**

District will then 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 will be forwarded to the Department Director. The deadline for District entries is December 11, 2026. Only entries from the District Commander/Chairperson will be accepted at the Department level. It is the responsibility of the District Commander/Chairperson to ensure that Posts have included all six items described above. If a Post's entry is incomplete, send it back to the Post for correction. Do not send it on to Department. It is also your responsibility to ensure that the District Teacher of the Year Award Report Form is filled out properly submitted to Department.

**It is the responsibility of the Post, District, and Department Adjutants to input the Teacher of the Year entries into the All-American Dashboard. This is to include all monetary value spent on this event. Failure to do so will result in the Post, District and Department showing Not Met in this category.**

## **Deadlines**

The deadline for Post sponsored entries is **October 31, 2026**. Post judging may not be held before **November 1, 2026**, and must be completed by **November 9, 2026**, to ensure that winning entries are delivered to the District Chairman by **November 16, 2026**. District judging may not be held before **November 16, 2026**, and must be completed by **November 30, 2026**, to ensure that the winning entry with all required materials is in the hands of the Department Director by **December 11, 2026**. The Department deadline for District entries is **December 11, 2026**. This deadline is absolute, and it includes all paperwork. Department judging will be closed and will be the responsibility of the Department Committee. Please be advised that the state judging will be attended only by the VFW Department Committee members and the State Judges. The Committee has the authority to disqualify from the Department judging any entry which is in violation of the rules stated in the Department Program and the National Program Booklet.

## **Awards**

- Glass Apple
- Plaque
- \$500 Award Check

## **Michael Martin, Director**

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