

2024-2025 DAY OF CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The Michigan VFW Day of Challenge Program is a one-day Michigan youth activity program sponsored by the Department of Michigan VFW with local support from VFW District 15 and area VFW Posts.

The Day of Challenge Program will be conducted at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI on or about March 22, 2025. The Michigan Tech Army ROTC cadets run the event, assisting with the challenges and leading each of the teams while helping to build leadership skills with each of the participants. The Army ROTC Cadre observes the event along with the VFW Program Director. The competitive events are conducted in the University Student Development Center, followed by a luncheon and awards ceremony in the gymnasium and ice arena concourse.

The program is designed to challenge teams in physical fitness, coordination and leadership as a group. There two divisions of competition based on age groups. The Junior Division is middle school grades 5, 6, 7 and 8, and the Senior Division is high school grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Teams are limited to 6 members. Disability is accepted in team memberships. A maximum of 30 teams may compete in the Day of Challenge due to facility constraints. Events include physical fitness test, swimming pool events & an obstacle course. Leadership reaction is tested on each team using limited equipment to solve a simulated scenario.

The Program is marketed to school principals by mail and direct contact and provides for on-line registration from those schools desiring to participate.

Team event awards will be presented in each Division. The top scoring team in JR. & SR. divisions will be presented with an engraved traveling trophy that can be displayed in their school until next year's Day of Challenge competition. In addition, all team participants will receive a Day of Challenge Certificate of Completion, a Medallion, & a custom tee shirt. The Iron Boy Trophy is awarded to the top scoring boy and the Iron Girl trophy is awarded to the top-scoring girl.

The Department of Michigan pays for all awards and the meals for the participants and ROTC cadets.

VFW Posts sponsoring a Day of Challenge team or contributing to the program can receive donation credit for Day of Challenge by submitting their donation to Department Headquarters earmarked for Day Challenge. Posts can receive credit for Youth Activities and Community Service by reporting their contributions through the VFW Department website on-line report tool.

Posts will receive All-State Program credit for their sponsorship of the program. Please consult the All-State Program for information.

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