



Department of Wisconsin

2026 – 2027 Youth Award Program

Due April 15, 2027

Volunteer service is the heart of the DAV mission, helping empower veterans to lead high-quality and fulfilling lives. From volunteering at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers to assisting Veterans in their local communities, DAV volunteers make a real difference in the lives of Veterans.

Our youth volunteers make a difference in the lives of veterans by continuously volunteering throughout the past year. Take this great opportunity to recognize their efforts!

Type of Award:

- \$250 Check and a Certificate of Appreciation
- \$150 Check and a Certificate of Appreciation
- \$100 Check and a Certificate of Appreciation

Persons Eligible for the Award: Any youth in grades K to 12 who volunteer to help Veterans in their local community.

Eligibility:

They must have volunteered in the name of DAV or DAVA as follows:

Grades K – 5 must have volunteered a minimum of 25 hours.

Grades 6 – 8 must have volunteered a minimum of 50 hours and provide a picture collage on one volunteer activity.

Grades 9 – 12 must have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours and provide a 500- 750-word essay on “What it means to volunteer”.

Volunteer hours can be accumulated from

- VA medical centers
- VAVS representation
- State veteran homes
- and/or the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) (Veterans Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, Visiting Housebound Veterans, or Visiting Veterans in Nursing Homes, for example)
- Hours must be credited to Disabled American Veterans.



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Once you have received a 1st Place Youth Award in your grade level, you are not eligible to compete again till the next grade level. However, all other competitors are eligible to re-apply until they win.

Who May Submit Nominations for Awards: applicants, Voluntary Service Program Managers at VA medical centers, DAV departments, DAV chapters, DAVA units, or family and friends.

- Application can be printed from the dav-wi.org website under the forms tab then emailing it to davwi.jvc@gmail.com
- The period of activity used for judging will be from April 1st, 2026, through March 31, 2027; twelve full months preceding the due date for which the award is being considered.
- All nominations must be submitted by April 15, 2027

Awards Presentation: The winners will be notified by phone, so be sure to include their number in the nominations/application.

Past Winners:

2013 – Shaylin Crack
2014 – Gabrielle Strasser
2015 – Morgyn Sobocinski
2016 – Paige Springston
2017 – Michael Bills
2018 – Anna Kempainen
2019 – Destiny Klinkhammer
2020 – convention canceled
2021 – Brookelynn Yunk
2022 – Shaelyn Kempainen
2023 – Meghan Rank
2024 – Mason Garcia
2025- Julian Anderson



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DAV Youth Award Program Nomination Application

Nominations for this award are made by Voluntary Service Program Managers at VA medical centers, DAV departments, DAV chapters, DAVA units, or family and friends.

Please note – for grades 9-12 to complete and submit the application, they will be required to submit a 500–750-word essay on “What it means to volunteer”, which can be emailed. There are additional items requested that are optional and can also be emailed.

For grades 6-8 to complete and submit the application, they will be required to submit a picture collage on one volunteer activity. There are additional items requested that are optional.

All lines with an * are required fields and must be filled in to qualify for the award.

Volunteer's Name* _____

Date of Birth* _____

Grade in for School Year 2026-2027* _____

Address* _____

City* _____

State* _____

Zip* _____

Phone * _____

Email address _____

DAV is authorized to use the name, photo, and bio information from this application in connection with DAV Scholarship*

Yes ☐ No ☐



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Please answer the following questions:

1. How many hours has the nominee volunteered during this award period?

Hours

2. During the past year, where has the nominee volunteered? *

_____ VA medical centers

_____ VAVS representation

_____ State veteran homes

_____ Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) (Veterans Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, Visiting House Bound Veterans, or Visiting Veterans in Nursing Homes for examples)

3. Volunteer activities the student has participated in.* _____

4. Were the hours reported to the DAV Chapter LVAP program? *

Yes ☐ No ☐

5. What did the volunteer do for the veterans in Their community and how does the volunteer feel they're impacting the veterans in their community? * (Required for grade K-8, Grades 9-12 it should be in their essay)

In addition to the above application, please include the following items with your nomination:

Grades 9-12 must submit a 500–750-word essay on "What it means to volunteer"*

Grades 6-8 must submit a picture collage of one volunteer activity

Recent photo of nominee (optional) Volunteer engagement photo (optional)

Additional document (optional)