



Community Programs

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States expects each of its Posts to support and conduct programs in the areas of Americanism, Community Service, Public Safety and Youth Activities. VFW Post 12002 is committed to participating in as many programs as possible in order to recognize the achievements of Students, Teachers, First Responders and Scouts in Roswell, Alpharetta, and Johns Creek and to provide assistance to local Veterans and their Families. This document summarizes the Post's activities in each of the program areas.

AMERICANISM

Teacher Awards	<p>As part of their commitment to foster true patriotism, Post 12002 annually recognizes the top elementary, junior high and high school teachers in the community who regularly teach citizenship education topics and promote America's history and traditions. A panel of Post members and educators review all applications and select a single winner for Kindergarten through Grade 5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12. The Post awards each of the three winners \$200 in cash and a framed certificate. Additional awards are made at the District and State levels and the State Winners receive a free trip to Washington to participate in the National awards program.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for this program is approximately \$900.</p>
Loyalty Day	<p>Loyalty Day is observed on May 1 in the United States. It is a day set aside "for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom". Each year, members of Post 12002 join with the other Posts in their District on the Saturday closest to May 1 for breakfast and a ceremony in observance of the holiday prior to the meetings of the District's VFW Posts and Auxiliaries.</p> <p>Annual travel costs are \$50 - \$100 and the cost for food if the Post hosts the Breakfast is approximately \$250.</p>
Wreaths Across America	<p>Each December, on National Wreaths Across America Day, the <i>Wreaths Across America</i> foundation coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Post 12002 participates in this mission to remember and honor the Veterans of all conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present day by purchasing wreaths for the Old Roswell Cemetery in Roswell, Georgia. The Post also provides the American, POW/MIA and Service Branch flags, a speaker, and one or more service branch representatives for the memorial ceremony.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for this program is approximately \$250.</p>
Buddy Poppies™	<p>The name "Buddy Poppy" has been a trademark of the VFW since 1924. Buddy Poppies are still manufactured by disabled and needy Veterans in VA Hospitals, providing compensation to those Veterans and financial support for state and national Veterans' service programs and the VFW National Home for Children.</p> <p>Each year, Post 12002 purchases 3,000 Buddy Poppies and hands them out at community events during the year, along with a brochure describing the history of the program and the origin of the poem <i>In Flanders Field</i>. In 2019, a member of Post 12002 was selected to represent <i>all</i> Georgia Veterans and place a memorial wreath at the American Cemetery in Flanders Field, Belgium as a prelude to the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.</p> <p>The annual cost for the Poppies and registration fees for the community events is \$500 - \$600.</p>



Community Programs

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service Officers	<p>Each VFW Post has a Service Officer who is appointed by the Post Commander. Service Officers provide a variety of services for Veterans in the community and their families. They assist Veterans and surviving spouses in filing original claims for compensation for service-connected disabilities and pensions, reopening prior claims, following up on claim statuses, reviewing denied claims, and preparing appeals. Service Officers also answer questions from Veterans and surviving spouses regarding medical, death, burial, and other benefits.</p> <p>Currently, the Post has <i>no</i> funding for reimbursing Service Officers expenses incurred in providing these services to our Veterans.</p>
Aid to Persons and Families	<p>As defined in Section 230102 its Congressional Charter, one of the mandates of the VFW is to be a charitable organization. In pursuing this goal, the members of Post 12002 are always on the lookout for persons in their local community who have temporary needs. The assistance our members provide includes rides to doctor appointments; transportation to and from the airport; minor home repairs; consultation water, electrical, telephone and cable tv issues; and outpatient medical treatments.</p> <p>Currently, Post members are <i>not</i> reimbursed for the expenses they incur in providing these services within their community.</p>
Speeches	<p>The Post is frequently asked to provide speakers at community events. The topics include the history and purposes of the VFW, the activities of the Post within the community, benefits available to Veterans and their surviving spouses, personal experiences in military service, flag etiquette, and options for combining veteran benefits with personal retirement plans.</p> <p>Members are <i>not</i> reimbursed for travel expenses and presentation material costs and donate all honorariums to the Relief Fund.</p>



Community Programs

PUBLIC SAFETY

Firefighter Awards	<p>Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars honors Firefighters around the nation who demonstrate excellence in their duties, dedication to their job, continued growth in their responsibilities, and are recognized by their colleagues for their accomplishments. Any individuals who actively fight fires as a member of a public or volunteer company, including dispatchers, are eligible for these awards.</p> <p>Post 12002 solicits entries from firefighters in Roswell, Alpharetta and Johns Creek and awards a Certificate and a \$250 cash prize to the top firefighter. The Post's winner is also submitted for judging at the District level and has the possibility to be selected for consideration at the State and National level.</p> <p>The Post's annual expense for this program is approximately \$300. However, the Post would like to be able to expand this program to include awards for second and third place.</p>
Law Enforcement Awards	<p>The Veterans of Foreign Wars annually selects those Police Officers around the nation who demonstrate excellence in their duties and dedication to their job, continued growth in their responsibilities, and are recognized by their fellow officers for their accomplishments. Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws is eligible for these awards.</p> <p>Post 12002 accepts entries from Law Enforcement Officers in Roswell, Alpharetta and Johns Creek and awards a Certificate and a \$250 cash prize to the top Officer. The Post's winner is also submitted for judging at the State level and has the possibility to be selected for consideration at the National level.</p> <p>The Post's annual expense for this program is approximately \$300. However, the Post would like to be able to expand this program to include awards for second and third place.</p>
EMT Awards	<p>The Veterans of Foreign Wars annually selects those Emergency Medical Technicians around the nation who demonstrate excellence in their duties and dedication to their job, continued growth in their responsibilities, and are recognized by their colleagues for their accomplishments. Any individual who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of a public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care is eligible for this award</p> <p>Post 12002 accepts entries from EMTs in Roswell, Alpharetta and Johns Creek and awards a Certificate and a \$250 cash prize to the top Officer. The Post's winner is also submitted for judging at the State level and has the possibility to be selected for consideration at the National level.</p> <p>The Post's annual expense for this program is approximately \$300. However, the Post would like to be able to expand this program to include awards for second and third place.</p>
Home & Fire Safety	<p>Periodically, the Post prepares one- or two-page monographs on topics concerning safety at home and on the road. The information provided is from organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Past topics have included <i>Adjusting Your Car Mirrors Properly</i>, <i>Gas Pipeline Safety</i> and <i>Outdoor Grill Safety Tips</i>. These documents are uploaded to the Post Website for members to download, copy and distribute within their neighborhoods and at community events.</p> <p>Currently, members are <i>not</i> reimbursed for their copying and travel costs.</p>



Community Programs

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Patriots Pen	<p>Each year more than 111,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's <i>Patriot's Pen</i> youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$900,000 in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.</p> <p>This essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, in an essay of 300-400 words, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.</p> <p>VFW Post 12002 supports this Program annually by soliciting entries from all of the Middle Schools in North Fulton County, recruiting outside judges from local schools, and providing certificates to all participants, cash prizes to the top 3 entrants, and honorariums to the judges. The first-place winner and their family are hosted at a Post Quarterly Social, and the student is given the honor of reading their essay to all present.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for this program is approximately \$900.</p>
Voice of Democracy	<p>Established in 1947, the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express their views in a democratic- and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 students in Grades 9-12 from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.9 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.</p> <p>The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's university, college, or vocational/technical school. The other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.</p> <p>VFW Post 12002 supports this Program annually by soliciting entries from all of the High Schools in North Fulton County, recruiting outside judges from local schools, and providing certificates to all participants, cash prizes to the top 3 entrants, and honorariums to the judges. The first-place winner and their family are hosted at a Post Quarterly Social, and the student is given the honor of reading their essay to all present.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for this program is approximately \$900.</p>
Junior ROTC Awards	<p>The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps prepares young men and women for careers of military service. The purpose of the VFW's Junior ROTC awards is to give special recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership ability by these individuals. Any 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student who is currently active in a Junior ROTC Program; demonstrates a positive attitude, outstanding military bearing, patriotism, courtesy, and leadership potential; maintains a minimum grade-point average; and is active in at least one other co-curricular activity, is eligible for the award.</p> <p>Post 12002 has a relationship with four Junior ROTC Programs in the three-city area. Each year, members of the Post award the top Cadet in each a full-size medal, matching ribbon bar and personalized certificate at a formal ceremony.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for the medals and certificates is approximately \$100. However, the Post would like to also present each top Cadet with a \$200 cash prize; an additional \$800 in funds will be required to do this.</p>



Community Programs

<p>Senior ROTC Awards</p>	<p>The Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps prepares young men and women in colleges across the nation to become an officer in one of the military services. The purpose of the VFW's Senior ROTC awards is to give special recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership ability of a Cadet in each program. To be eligible for the award, the Cadet must be an undergraduate, be enrolled in an accredited Military Science program, be in good standing academically and militarily, have demonstrated achievement in military subjects, and have demonstrated capability and diligence in a related activity of the ROTC program.</p> <p>For several years, Post 12002 has presented the <i>General Raymond G. Davis Patriot Award</i> to a Cadet in the <i>Boar's Head Brigade</i> at the University of North Georgia. This award was established in honor of Comrade Raymond G. Davis who, as a Lieutenant Colonel, led the 1st Battalion of the 7th Marines out of the infamous Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. The top Cadet receives a full-size medal, matching ribbon bar, personalized certificate, and \$250 scholarship presented by a representative of the Post at the school's annual Military Award Ceremony.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for the medal, certificate, and scholarship is \$275, but the presenter is <i>not</i> reimbursed for their travel costs.</p> <p>A long-term goal of the Post is to establishment a \$25,000 endowment at the university to support two \$500 scholarships (one per semester).</p>
<p>Scouting Awards</p>	<p>The VFW's Scout-of-the-Year program provides members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism, and love of country with the opportunity to be earn a College Scholarship of up to \$5,000.</p> <p>VFW Post 12002 supports this Program annually by soliciting entries from all of the High Schools in North Fulton County, recruiting outside judges from local schools, and providing certificates to all participants, cash prizes to the top 3 entrants, and honorariums to the judges. The first-place winner and their family are hosted at a Post Quarterly Social, and the student is given the honor of reading their essay to all present.</p> <p>The Post's 1st-Place Winner is also be entered in the competition for Scout-of-the-Year for the Department of Georgia. The Department also gives cash prizes to the top Scouts and hosts the 1st Place Winner and their family at the State Convention in Macon in June.</p> <p>The annual cost to the Post for this program is approximately \$700.</p>

SUMMARY

Post 12002 spends approximately \$6,000 annually on its Community Programs. Additionally, it spends approximately \$9,250 each year on administrative fees required by the District, State and National VFW. All of this money comes out of the Post's General Fund which, at this time, has no revenue stream to offset this \$15,250 of expenses.