

# What Inspires me Most about America

By Kenzie Martin

What inspires me most about America is how we have so much and are so fortunate. The thing is, we usually don't even realize it! Many people call America the land where dreams come true, or the land of opportunity. While we're over here living our best life, people on the other side of the world are living in a small shed with six people.

There are even people in Asia and Africa who are starving to death, and there are many areas where kids don't even have the opportunity to go to school. Many kids in America whine about not wanting to go to school. We also have restaurants, amusement parks, and all kinds of fun stuff to do. Meanwhile, kids in other parts of the world are wishing they just had a bed to sleep in at night.

Lots of kids complain about the food they have to eat, or they whine if they don't have the nicest or coolest clothes, But there are some kids in the world who would be happy to receive a toothbrush. We don't even realize how lucky we actually are.

It is really sad how some kids have to live. That is why I really want to go to Africa or Asia or some place like that. I want to give some of the kids that have nothing, some of the nice things that I have in America. I think it is unfair that they have to live like that. I want them to have just a few of the nice things that I have, because no kid should have to live with nothing. I am so thankful to live in America where we have so many wonderful things that not everyone has.

The thing that inspires me most about America is we are so lucky that we have the opportunity to give others some of what we have here in America.

# 2023-2024 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Post# \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Post Address \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Post # \_\_\_\_\_

No. of contestants \_\_\_\_\_

No. of winners \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ Email

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone

\_\_\_\_\_ Email

The winner  has been  will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on \_\_\_\_\_.

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must be the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

*I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules*