



**SMART/MAHER**  
**VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP**  
**EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**  
**CHAIRPERSON'S**  
**GUIDE**



## HONORING THOSE WHO TEACH

The VFW launched the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in 1999 to recognize certified teachers for promoting citizenship education. Three teachers, one from each level (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) are selected as department winners. Each department award winner and their school will receive a National Citation. Visit this link for more information and for an entry form: [vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year](http://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year).

### Eligibility

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

### Deadlines

Post judging should be completed and their winners entries sent to the District by November 15, if applicable, or Department by January 1. Department judging should be completed and their winning entries submitted to VFW National Headquarters by February 1 by completing a VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form located on the VFW website. The Post chairperson must be sure to send the original entry form for the winners along with a one-page resume as a minimum, or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, such as references, news articles, etc. Also good quality head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers, if available.

### Judging

Select competent and unbiased judges. A panel of at least three to five judges is recommended. The VFW chairperson should be present at the judging to provide assistance but should not be one of the judges. Prior to the judging, the chairperson should review all entry forms to ensure they adhere to the rules.

**Judges should grant points based on four criteria with the potential of 100 points as follows:**

**1-25 points** - Does the teacher teach and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

**1-25 points** - An innovative approach to teaching citizenship.

**1-25 points** - Development of resources to teach citizenship education.

**1-25 points** - Passion for teaching citizenship education.

**NOTE: Judging sheets are available on later pages.**

### Running the Program

Here are some important points to remember when conducting the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program.

- Know the program procedures and judging guidelines thoroughly.
- Develop a good working relationship with your Post's Auxiliary chairperson.
- Contact schools early and make a point of explaining the importance of the program to the principal.
- Send a news release to your local media with the names of your winning teachers (see website for sample).
- Recognize your participants (both winners and judges) with official VFW awards - see the official VFW Store catalog (or visit [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) for ideas.)
- Forward your winning Post's entries to the District, if applicable, or Department as soon as the competition is finished.

### Winning Entry Checklist

Here's what your Post needs to have to your District, if applicable, or Department:

- ✓ Winning teacher's entry form.
- ✓ Teacher's one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, such as references, news articles, etc.
- ✓ Good quality head and shoulders photograph of the teacher, if available.

### Reporting Guidelines

VFW Post, District and Department reporting must be completed on the All-American Dashboard as of Aug. 1, 2022. Adjutants are the official corresponding officer for the Post, District and Department, and they will collect participation reports from their chairperson, and will submit their reports on the All-American Dashboard through the **Online Membership System (OMS)**. January 15 is the deadline for District reports to be submitted and the deadline for Department reports to be submitted is January 31.

## Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

### What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

### Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

### Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

### How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

### What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2022. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

### What Are the Judging Criteria?

**Citizenship (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

**Innovation (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

**Resources (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

**Passion (1-25 points):** On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

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*If you have any questions, please call  
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287  
or [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).*

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### Local VFW Post Information:

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Contact

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Phone

Best time to call

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Alternative Contact

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Phone

Best time to call

# 2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

## 2022-2023 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition *Must Be Completed by All Contestants*

Name: First, M.I., Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School City, State \_\_\_\_\_

## To Be Completed by the VFW Post *I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Teacher Award Competition.*

Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature  
(If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

VFW Post Email \_\_\_\_\_

No. of teachers participating \_\_\_\_\_

No. of winners advanced to District \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amt. of Post /Aux. additional expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(banquet, pins, etc.)

**To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)** I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairperson's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dist # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Email

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

## Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner, in each grade level, advances to District, if applicable, then one District winner, in each grade level, advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/ContactUs](http://vfw.org/ContactUs) and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).

# TEACHER'S AWARD JUDGING SCORE SHEET

TEACHER'S NAME	CITIZENSHIP (1-25 Points)	INNOVATION (1-25 Points)	RESOURCES (1-25 Points)	PASSION (1-25 Points)	TOTAL (Possible 100 Points)

## Judging Criteria

**Citizenship:** (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

**Innovation:** (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

**Resources:** (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

**Passion:** (1-25 points) On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST# \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE LEVEL  K-5  6-8  9-12

JUDGE'S NAME (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Judges should be carefully selected, preferably from individuals who have classroom experience and understand the challenges of teaching. They should never have any affiliation with the nominees or the schools where the nominees teach. While it may be necessary to use VFW and its Auxiliary members, it is preferred that judges come from outside our ranks to avoid the appearance of impropriety. During the judging, the chairperson should facilitate and observe but refrain from offering his or her observations on the candidates. The judges are encouraged to discuss the candidates but must arrive at their own numerical evaluation using the grid above. Make sure all judges are kept aware of the progress of the teachers they have judged and are invited to any awards presentations