



# Department of New York Student Veterans Liaison Program (SVA) Chairman's Guide



Thank you for accepting the responsibility as the Student Veterans Association (SVA) Liaison Program Chairman for the Department of New York.

You are expected to perform your duties to the best of your ability and to become familiar with the requirements of the SVA Liaison Program. This Chairman's Guide will provide you some of the necessary guidelines in performing your duties. There may be additional references you may need to review either on the Department or National websites and/or other documentation that may be issued during the ensuing year.

It is important that you learn as much as you can about your position and ask questions if you are not sure of what you will be required to do. I and my staff are available to assist you in this endeavor to ensure you are successful in your efforts.

Since Student Veterans of America's founding in 2008, the chapter network has grown from 20 campuses to over 950 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states. Chapters provide peer to peer support that empowers veterans to achieve academic success. Both the VFW and SVA share a deep commitment to ensuring veterans succeed in post-secondary education programs, secure gainful employment and grow as leaders in the veteran community.

As Chairman, it will be your responsibility to coordinate the efforts of each District SVA Chairman to assist veterans in the college community and encourage them to become members of the greatest veterans organization in the world, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in their local posts.

Please endeavor to promote the VAVS Program in our Districts, Councils and Posts and that you maintain a close relationship with each District SVA Chairman.

The Department of New York publishes its on-line newspaper *The Overseas Veteran* quarterly and it is highly recommended that a short article explaining the merits of the SVA Program and what is happening in the Department be prepared and submitted to the newspaper editor when the call goes out for articles.

A Student Veterans Outreach Program Report is required to be made to the National organization as visits, meetings and events are attended and monitored in colleges and school in each of the Districts in the Department of New York. I expect you to outreach to each District for those reports and ensure those reports are prepared expeditiously following action events. Deadlines are important and I expect you to meet them.

As SVA reports are prepared and forwarded to the National Organization, please forward a copy of the report as well by e-mail to:

|                             |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Department of NY Commander: | <a href="mailto:ejr@vfwny.com">ejr@vfwny.com</a>                 |
| Department of NY Adjutant:  | <a href="mailto:adjutantDNY@vfwny.com">adjutantDNY@vfwny.com</a> |

As part of your responsibilities as Chairman, you will be expected to prepare a short written report of your activities to be submitted two weeks prior to the Spring and Fall Department Conferences and State Convention. If called upon to make an oral report, you will be invited by letter prior to any conference or convention.

The State Commander is confident of your ability to manage the Student Veterans Liaison Program and am sure you will be extremely successful in your endeavors.

Thank you for stepping up and accepting this challenging position.

**Note:** The below report is a sample of the report to National by SVA members and may change from year to year. Ensure you check the National website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) for the up-to-date reporting requirements and forms if any.



**STUDENT VETERANS OUTREACH REPORTING FORM**

|                                                                                                                                                      |  |                     |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>VFW Liaison Name:</b>                                                                                                                             |  | <b>Department:</b>  |  |
| <b>Member Number:</b>                                                                                                                                |  | <b>Post Number:</b> |  |
| <b>College or University:</b>                                                                                                                        |  |                     |  |
| <b>City, State &amp; Zip:</b>                                                                                                                        |  |                     |  |
| <b>Student Veteran POC:</b>                                                                                                                          |  |                     |  |
| <b>Date &amp; time of event:</b>                                                                                                                     |  |                     |  |
| <b>Please list details to include event type, Post members present, student veterans present, new members recruited and any additional outcomes.</b> |  |                     |  |
|                                                                                                                                                      |  |                     |  |

Please complete this form and email or fax it to your Department Headquarters  
and the VFW Membership Department.

Email: [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org)

Fax: 816-968-2728

Tel: 816-756-3390



The following resources are available on the National website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) in the VFW & Training Tab

### ➤ Student Veterans of America (SVA)

- [Student Veteran Outreach Guide](#) - What you need to know about reaching out to local student vets
- [SVA Liaison Report](#) - Tell us about the events you've hosted in support of an SVA chapter
- [FAQ for Student Veterans](#) - Every student veteran has questions so we've compiled the answers
- [Little-Known Facts](#) - Extra opportunities student veterans might not know about



**Please complete this form and email or fax it to your Department Headquarters  
and the VFW Membership Department.**

[Print Form](#)



# VFW STUDENT VETERANS LIAISONS GUIDE

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## Who Are Student Veterans?

- ✓ 73%-80% of Student Veterans are male; 21-27% are female.
- ✓ With only 10-14% of military personnel being women, female Student Veterans are over represented in postsecondary education.
- ✓ Only 15% of Student Veterans are traditionally aged college students. Most Student Veterans are between the ages of 24 and 40.
- ✓ 47% of Student Veterans have children.
- ✓ 47.3% of Student Veterans are married.
- ✓ 62% of Student Veterans are first-generation students.

## Student Veteran Demographics

The majority of student veterans are enlisted (90.35) and current conflict era. The chart provided below are for reference. More information on Student can be found at [studentveterans.org](http://studentveterans.org).

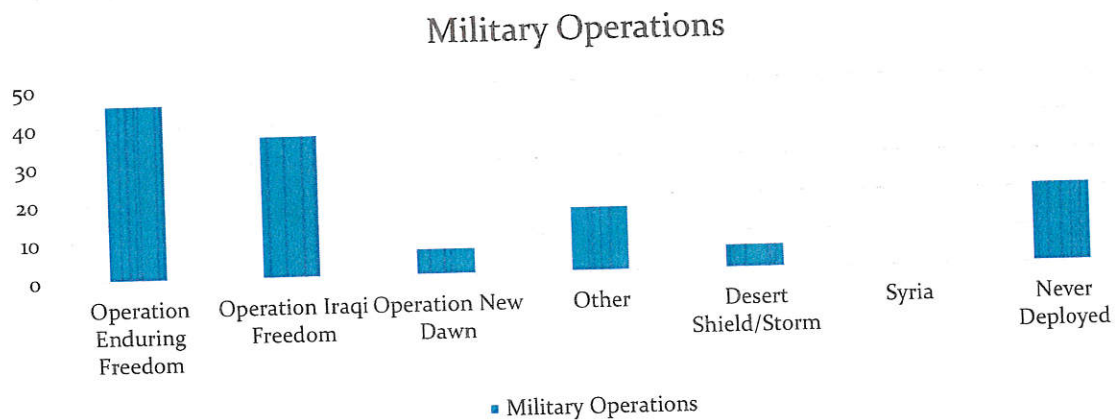


Figure 1: The sum is greater than 100 because many veterans have supported multiple operations over the span of their career.

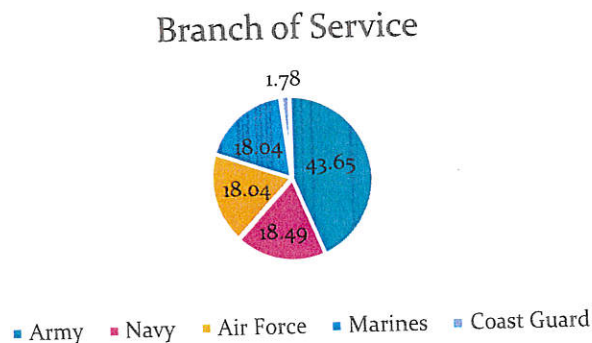


Figure 2: The rank breakdown is 90.35% Enlisted, 1.2% Warrant, and 8.45% Officer



## What is VFW Student Veteran Outreach?

The VFW and Student Veterans of America have partnered under the common goal of student veteran success. The intent of the partnership is for departments to build relationships with local chapters through VFW Liaisons. As of May 2016, there are 1355 chapters.

## What Makes a Good Liaison?

- ✓ Anyone with a passion for student veterans.
- ✓ Someone that is comfortable with Social Media/Communication platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, texting and emails.
- ✓ Someone willing to stay informed with VFW-SVA initiatives geared towards student.
- ✓ Must be willing to attend events on campus.
- ✓ Focuses on developing relationships, not membership- if you build it, they will come!

## How to Get Started?

Locate your local chapters at [www.studentveterans.org/chapter/directory](http://www.studentveterans.org/chapter/directory) and contact the POC. It is probably better to reach out to the faculty advisor because there is high student turn over. If the information is not up to date, you can try finding the chapters social media pages or reaching out to the veteran services office at the educational institution. Not all chapters are called Student Veterans of America, for instance, the University of Kansas was called the Collegiate Veterans Association while other chapters are called simply "Veteran's Club" or "Students Affected by the Military", the latter was open to the spouses and dependent children.

- ✓ Attend SVA events on and off campus.
- ✓ Ask to be added to their mailing list so you can stay up to date.
- ✓ Engage SVA members -- invite them to your Post.
- ✓ Educate student veterans about the VFW.
- ✓ Find out how your Post can help.
- ✓ Most university's or colleges clubs are required to do volunteer work ask for their help.
- ✓ Create a VFW information package for enrollment handouts.

A lot of chapters are light on funds so a liaison can offer to purchase food like pizza for chapter meetings.

## Current VFW Student Veteran Initiatives



- ✓ Scholarships of up to \$5,000
- ✓ Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below
- ✓ Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- ✓ Must be accepted or enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution
- ✓ Limited to one per family per semester
- ✓ Applications for the fall semester will be accepted January 1 through April 30
- ✓ Applications for the spring semester will be accepted August 1 through November 15
- ✓ Fall semester scholarships will be awarded in August, and spring semester scholarships will be awarded in January
- ✓ Scholarships must be used by the end of the school semester for which the veteran is applying or they will become null and void
- ✓ Be a citizen of the United States

The VFW and one of its major supporters, Sport Clips Haircuts, have again partnered to help our veterans and their families. The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" will provide service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way to say "thank you" to those who deserve it the most. <http://www.vfw.org/Scholarship/>



- ✓ Resolution of wrongly denied or delayed educational benefits
- ✓ Provides expert assistance for veterans who need:
- ✓ Guidance in filing for GI Bill benefits
- ✓ Help accessing education benefits
- ✓ Answers to VA benefit questions

Today's veterans can face any number of obstacles while furthering their education. Taking advantage of all the benefits they've earned and DESERVE shouldn't be one of them. That's why the VFW, in conjunction with the Student Veterans of America (SVA), developed the **1 Student Veteran** program. 1 Student Veteran offers direct assistance to student veterans who have questions or are experiencing problems accessing their VA benefits.

The VFW seeks to ensure student veterans receive their benefits in a timely manner and have a place to turn to if they need help. Our direct access to VA Regional Offices across the country means that we can work quickly to provide our student veterans with timely and accurate answers regarding the complex claims process. Furthermore, our direct access to education claims adjudicators means that those whose education benefits have been wrongfully denied, delayed during a transfer from one school to another or paid in error, will not have to wait the months it would traditionally take to file a formal appeal.

Veterans who send a message to 1 Student Veteran ([1studentveteran@vfw.org](mailto:1studentveteran@vfw.org)) will receive a reply from a VFW staff member who specializes in student veteran issues within 24 hours or the next business day.

If you have already confirmed your benefit eligibility through the VA's GI Bill Hotline, **888-GI BILL 1** (888-442-4551), and double-checked your enrollment verification with your school, take the next step and contact 1 Student Veteran today. [www.vfw.org/1StudentVeteran/](http://www.vfw.org/1StudentVeteran/)





Fellows will be selected based on the following criteria:

- ✓ VFW membership
- ✓ Enrollment at a college or university with an active SVA chapter
- ✓ Studying political science, government, communications, history, law or a related field
- ✓ Submission of an essay based on an issue outlined in VFW's Legislative Priority Goals
- ✓ Final over-the-phone interview with the selection committee

In keeping with VFW's commitment to student veterans' success, the VFW has partnered with Student Veterans of America to host the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship program, providing 10 exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. The program started in 2014.

Selected Fellows will conduct research on an approved policy area which affects veterans. They will, through this research, identify specific problems and propose solutions which would help veterans. Additionally, while supported by VFW mentors, the Fellow will take action on their proposed solutions using a grassroots based campaign to convince members of Congress of the importance of the issue. Further, the chosen Fellows will be flown to Washington, D.C. where they will participate in the VFW National legislative Conference, where they will walk the halls of Congress, educating their legislators on the issues facing today's student veterans. Fellows will also have the opportunity to accompany the VFW advocates from their respective states, as well as break into teams to meet directly with leadership from the committees of jurisdiction on veterans' issues to include the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows will also be highlighted during the VFW National Commander's testimony before a special session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and the VFW's annual Congressional reception. VFW and SVA national leadership will also host the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows for a congratulatory dinner during the conference.

Expenses covered for the fellowship include airfare, hotel accommodations, local transportation to/from meetings and a per diem allowance. For more information about the program, please check out the following [op-ed](#) written by one of the 2014 fellows.  
[www.studentveterans.org/programs/vfw-sva-legislative-fellowship](http://www.studentveterans.org/programs/vfw-sva-legislative-fellowship)



## Current Student Veterans of America Initiatives



SVA's Local Leadership Summits bring student veterans together to exchange chapter best practices and to explore campus-level concepts that can ease a veteran's transition from the military to higher education and then to the workforce. These events are hosted in multiple locations throughout the country every summer. Each Summit is hosted with an SVA corporate partner, which gives veterans the opportunity to network and learn from business leaders.

Summits focus on strategic planning and business plan development for chapter leaders. Chapters who attend the Summits will get a 3-day crash course on how to put together a winning business plan, as well as the opportunity to pair with mentors to help craft it. On the last day, chapters will present their plan to a panel of distinguished judges from the local business community who will provide them with expert feedback and advice. [www.studentveterans.org/programs/leadership-institute-series](http://www.studentveterans.org/programs/leadership-institute-series)



Does your campus need a dedicated place where student veterans can socialize, study and connect? Do you have space on campus for a veteran center, but no furniture? Have you always wanted a veteran center on campus, but lack the resources to build one? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, you're in the right place!

Since 2014, the SVA Vet Center Initiative has built and improved veteran spaces on 61 campuses impacting over 30,000. Recognizing the successes of the last two years, The Home Depot Foundation continues its commitment to student veterans by offering a total of \$400,000 to 50 deserving SVA chapters! [www.studentveterans.org/programs/vetcenter-initiative](http://www.studentveterans.org/programs/vetcenter-initiative)

### SVA Chapter grants

Chapter grants are designed to encourage student veterans to think about long-term sustainability strategies and compete with their peers to develop the best possible plans for their chapter. They can be used to fund events, conference travel, or purchases needed to enhance the experience for student veterans in an SVA chapter. [www.studentveterans.org/programs/chapter-grants](http://www.studentveterans.org/programs/chapter-grants)

## Reporting your Activity

Before you report, please consider the value of your outreach. Every interaction is valuable but not every interaction is reportable. For instance, contacting a school without a veterans group to discuss starting one is a necessary step towards the reportable activity of holding an informational meeting. The acronym QUICK was created as a guide of things to consider before submitting a report.

**Quantifiable-** Only report events that are measurable. Although doing things like donating flags are great, the people that are affected by it cannot legitimately be accessed. Planned social events are measurable.

**Unifying-** The relationship should be mutually beneficial. How is your presence helping to strengthen chapters? How have the student veterans been enriched by their nearest post?

**Impactful-** Simple, how are you improving the lives for student veterans? Are you an advocate? Do you know university issues they are working on?

**Community-** Are your chapters and your posts working together to be assets in the community? How are you cultivating opportunities for veterans to still serve?

**Knowledge-** Today's student veteran leader is tomorrow's VFW leader. How are you passing on your knowledge of the VFW on to them?

As of May 2016, we are using a PDF form that can be mailed, faxed or emailed to [studentoutreach@vfw.org](mailto:studentoutreach@vfw.org) (preferred). We are in the process of streamlining the reporting process that will allow reporting to happen through vfw.org.



## Additional VFW Programs



As the nation's largest organization of combat veterans, we understand the challenges veterans, service members and military families can face and believe that experiencing financial difficulties should not be one of them. That's the premise behind the VFW's [Unmet Needs](#) program.

Unmet Needs is there to help America's service members who have been deployed in the last six years and have run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity. The program provides financial aid of up to \$5,000 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant -not a loan- so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, we pay the creditor directly.

Since the program's inception, Unmet Needs has distributed over \$5.4 million in assistance to qualified military families, with nearly half of those funds going directly toward basic housing needs.

The needs of our veterans, service members and their families should never go unmet. Let us offer you a hand up when you need it!

Review the Unmet Needs eligibility criteria to see if you or someone you know qualifies for a grant through the Unmet Needs program.

[www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY\\_VFW/UnmetNeedsEligibilityCriteria.pdf](http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/UnmetNeedsEligibilityCriteria.pdf)

Contact Unmet Needs at 1-866-789-6333 or by email at [unmetneeds@vfw.org](mailto:unmetneeds@vfw.org) with any questions.





The VFW **Action Corps** is the VFW's national grassroots advocacy network comprised of more than **60,000** VFW members and patriotic supporters of veterans. Members of the VFW Action Corps stay up-to-date on the issues facing our veterans, our military and their families, standing ready to email, write, call and visit our nation's lawmakers to make their voices heard.

The VFW Action Corps is **free** and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities.

VFW Action Corps members receive:

- ✓ The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.
- ✓ Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials.
- ✓ VFW "Action Alerts" telling them how they can get involved when our nation's veterans, service members, and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

The VFW Action Corps is what gives the VFW its strength in advocating for our nation's heroes. Working hand-in-hand with the VFW's National Legislative Service -- whose office is in eye-shot of the Capitol dome in Washington -- members of the VFW Action Corps are armed with all of the tools and information they need to help the VFW in its mission to support our nation's veterans. So join the VFW Action Corps today and add your voice to the thousands of veterans' advocates making a difference every day, and if you're already a member of the VFW Action Corps, encourage your friends and neighbors to join the effort!

Visit [www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/](http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/) to learn more and to join today!



## VFW Additional Services

In addition to programs specifically designed to serve the needs of student veterans, the VFW National Veterans Service offers a series of programs and services that may benefit student veterans. Each of these programs is offered to all veterans free of charge and without obligation.

**Disability Claims Assistance:** The VFW accredits more than 1,700 of Veterans Service Officers around the country who can assist veterans in filing service-connected benefit claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs. When a veteran's claim is approved, the monthly payments from VA help make up for potential lost wages that result from health problems caused or aggravated by military service.

To student veterans, service-connected benefits can mean the difference between focusing on their studies or needing to find a part-time job just to make ends meet. Filing a claim can also be a gateway to other VA benefits such as health care, housing, employment assistance, even additional education benefits through the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program.

Every year, the VFW serves nearly 75,000 veterans, recovering nearly \$2 billion in earned benefits. Most VFW-accredited service officers receive up to 80 hours of training every year to understand veterans' benefit policies, so they can offer sound advice on what veterans can claim; what evidence is required to establish service-connection; and how VA makes its decisions. Plus, if you are denied benefits, the VFW will help you decide whether to appeal and provide skilled assistance throughout the appeals process.

While you have the right to file a VA claim on your own, why go through the hassle of sorting through reams of health care records and deciphering complex legal terminology? VFW's highly-trained service officers can shoulder that burden for you.

For details about the VFW Veterans Service Officer program and to find local points of contact, visit:

[www.vfw.org/NVS](http://www.vfw.org/NVS)

**VA Health Care Intervention:** The VFW works every day to hold VA accountable for its obligation to deliver timely, quality health care to veterans. If you are having problems accessing your health care benefits or if you have questions about VA care, VFW offers casework consultants who can help.

To student veterans, access to timely, quality health care is critical to educational success – especially for veterans who need treatment for service-connected conditions. Plus, veterans who utilize VA health care could save thousands of dollars each academic year, since most schools recognize VA health care as qualifying coverage to waive mandatory health insurance requirements. Student veterans will still have to pay their school's health services fees, allowing them to use on-campus clinics for routine care concerns, but they will likely not have to bear the burden of purchasing additional costly insurance.

For direct assistance with your VA health care questions or concerns, call 1-800-VFW-1899 (1-800-839-1899) or visit:

[www.vfw.org/VAWatch](http://www.vfw.org/VAWatch)

**VA Voluntary Service:** The VFW's legacy of service through the VA Voluntary Service program is unmatched in the veterans' community. Every year, more than 6,000 VFW volunteers give more than 700,000 hours of their time in assisting fellow veterans at more than 150 VA health care facilities nationwide. VFW volunteers also generate more than \$1.5 million in donations every year to support VA volunteer efforts.

For student veterans looking to give back to the veterans' community, volunteering through the VFW is a natural fit. Whether you want to explore a new career path, hone job skills, help veterans become physically active, or offer your companionship, the VFW's network of VA volunteers can help match your skills, and even your post-educational career goals, to volunteer opportunities at nearly every VA health care facility in the country.

The VA Voluntary Service program is flexible, meaning student veterans can volunteer whenever it is most convenient for them, such as school break periods or on days when class schedules may be lighter. Plus, by volunteering through the VFW, the VFW's experienced volunteer coordinators can guide student veterans through the Voluntary Service program and make sure that their experience is a rewarding one.

To find out how to get involved, visit:

[www.vfw.org/VolunteerService](http://www.vfw.org/VolunteerService)





# MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP

## What is mentoring?

Mentoring refers to a developmental relationship between an experienced mentor and a less experienced partner. The concept is simply one person (usually older), spending time with another person for the purpose of sharing wisdom, experience and understanding in order to improve the less experienced person's chances for success. Often, mentoring is done within the context of a trade or philosophy.

## Why does the VFW need mentors?

The general public knows the VFW as a group of veterans who share the experience of overseas service. As members, we know the organization is much to-gether by a common experience. We are committed to certain values including our concern for fellow veter-ans, honoring and serving those in uniform and their families, patriotism and service to our communities and nation. Another common trait we share is our desire to see this organization and its values head strongly into the future.

This is where mentoring becomes a vital factor.

To ensure that the VFW and its values persevere for another century and beyond, we must do all we can to raise individuals who will lead this organization, re-member its history and accomplishments, and carry on the legacy of service and patriotism for which we are known. In short, we need leaders who value the future of the VFW and will invest their time in guiding young veterans to become its future leaders. We need VFW mentors.

## What are the goals of mentoring?

A successful mentor will encourage other veterans to become committed, active VFW members. Ultimately, this individual should continue to seek more responsi-bility and a position of leadership to carry on the traditions, values and service that have made the VFW a great organization.

## What does being a VFW mentor entail?

Because most of us learned to fire a weapon, make a bed and clean a latrine by the numbers, that's how we will present mentoring.

1) Find a VFW member who understands VFW values, has an interest in VFW culture and is willing to serve as a leader.

2) Ask the member to have a cup of coffee and learn more about the VFW. Try to set aside one evening per week to meet and talk. It is important to identify a regular time and place, and stick to it. True leadership involves commitment and discipline.

3) Go through the curriculum in this brochure. You don't need to be an expert on VFW history or policies, just discuss each element from your own perspective using your experiences.

4) Encourage your mentee by introducing him or her to other leaders and active members. Encourage these other members to share their VFW experience.

5) Encourage your mentee to begin his or her VFW career by volunteering at a Post event. As they become involved and get to know other members, encourage them to consider accepting a chairmanship and recruiting their fellow veterans.

6) Encourage and support your mentee as a candidate for Post office. Guide the campaign and encourage others to support them.



## Mentoring Curriculum

This curriculum is a suggestion of elements that should be covered while mentoring a VFW member. No portion is more important than another. As a natu-ral part of the mentoring process, each VFW mentor will discover areas where the mentee's interests lie—programs, volunteering, community service, veterans service, active military, etc. The mentee may have more passion and experience in these areas.

The VFW mentor should use this curriculum to ensure that the mentee's introduction and educa-tion about the VFW is broad-based to allow a good understanding of all aspects of the organization and provide a solid foundation for future involvement. Every aspect of the curriculum should at least be touched upon.

An effective mentor will always attempt to identify areas of particular interest to the individual being mentored and cover those areas thoroughly.

## VFW History

- Reasons for the VFW's creation
- The founders and their backgrounds
- Stated purposes and values addressed by the founders
- Significant milestones and accomplishments in VFW history
- Notable VFW members
- The VFW's interaction with government, education and related organizations
- The differences between generations of veterans — WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, OIF/OEF

## VFW Congressional Charter and By-Laws & Manual of Procedure and Ritual

- Basic tenets and purposes of the Charter
- Relationships between the VFW National Convention, Councils of Administration, Departments, County Councils (where applicable), Districts and Posts
- The various rituals, their meanings and usage
- Parliamentary procedure
- Election of officers and various appointments

## VFW Departments, Districts & Posts

- Responsibilities and relationships
- Officers — their selection and responsibilities





## **FAQs for Student Veterans**

1. How do I find out what education benefits I'm eligible for?  
Veterans can contact the VA's GI Bill Hotline at 1-888-GI-Bill (1-888-442-4551).
2. How is my Post-9/11 GI Bill living stipend (BHA) determined?  
Your BHA is based on the ZIP code for your school and paid at the rate of E-5 with dependents. To estimate of your BHA benefits, click here and enter your zip code:  
<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>
3. If I attend school ½ time do I get BHA?  
No. The law stipulates no BAH payment for less than full time students.
4. If I am a "distance learner" do I qualify for BHA?  
Yes. However, your BHA payments will be for ½ the national average (currently \$714.50)
5. What should I contact about a payment delay?  
Contact your school certifying official first to double-check your enrollment verification.
6. Why didn't I get any payment over the break?  
Payments are made based on the days actually spent in school; therefore no payments are made during breaks.
7. Can I transfer my benefits to my spouse or children?  
Under certain conditions you may transfer your benefits if you are still serving on active duty, but benefit transfer is controlled by the Department of Defense (DOD) and requires additional military service. VA does not control the transfer of benefits. For a fact sheet on GI Bill transferability, click here:  
[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/Transferability\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/Transferability_Factsheet.pdf)

8. I have not received my GI Bill Kicker (Army/Navy College fund etc.).

These programs are administered by the DOD and vary among each of the military services. Check with your service branch, for example [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com) or [www.navycollege.navy.com](http://www.navycollege.navy.com).

9. I have the Montgomery GI Bill, how can I verify my enrollment each month?

Active duty or Reserve GI Bill, REAP, or VRAP individuals can check their enrollment by using Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE)

([www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do](http://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do)) or by calling 1 (877) 823-2378. Post- 9/11 GI Bill students do not need to verify enrollment.

10. When will I receive my benefits?

Typically within two weeks of your enrollment or once your school has sent your certification to VA. At the beginning of a new semester it can take as long as six weeks to receive payments due to demand. If you have not received your payments in a timely manner, first check with your school to make sure they have certified your enrollment.

11. I haven't chosen a school yet. Is there any counseling available to help me pick the right school?

Yes. VA offers free one-on-one educational counseling to all GI Bill-eligible veterans. To take advantage of this free benefit, you must apply to VA in writing. To learn how to apply, click here: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/edu\\_voc\\_counseling.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/edu_voc_counseling.asp)

12. Does the VFW have resources available if the GI Bill doesn't cover all my continuing education expenses?

Yes. The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. For details including eligibility requirements, please visit

<https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/vfwsportclipsfall2017%20>.

13. I didn't see my question answered here. What can I do next?

The VFW is here to answer your specific questions through [1studentveteran@vfw.org](mailto:1studentveteran@vfw.org). You can also search VA's extensive FAQ to find answers to your education questions by clicking here: <https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/list>



## **Little-Known Facts for Students**

1 **Fry Scholarship**

Qualifying children of service members who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001 are eligible for the Post-911/GI Bill. For details on the Fry Scholarship, click here:

[https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1411/~what-is-the-fry-scholarship-and-who-is-eligible%3F](https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1411/~what-is-the-fry-scholarship-and-who-is-eligible%3F)

2 **Rural Benefit**

Certain veterans who relocate from highly rural areas to attend college may be eligible for a one-time \$500 payment to help defer costs associated with relocation. To view current maximum tuition and rural benefit rates, click here:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rate\\_tables.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp)

3 **Yellow Ribbon**

Allows approved institutions of higher learning in the US and the VA to partially or fully fund tuition and expenses that exceed the GI Bill limits. To view a list of Yellow Ribbon participants, click here:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow\\_ribbon.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp)



4 Scholarships

Several national scholarships may be available to help defray some out-of-pocket costs for higher education. VFW offers scholarships for student veterans in partnership with Sport Clips and Student Veterans of America (SVA) offers scholarships in partnership with Google for veterans pursuing STEM degrees.

a. VFW scholarship info: <http://www.vfw.org/scholarship>

b. SVA scholarship info:

<http://www.studentveterans.org/index.php/chapter/programs/scholarships>

5 Career Counseling and Educational Services

VA offers free educational and career counseling to all GI Bill-eligible veterans under Chapter 36 beginning six months prior to leaving service. To learn about this benefit, click here:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/careerscope.asp>

6 In-State Tuition

If you attend a public school, the Post-9/11 GI Bill will only reimburse the in-state tuition and fees rate even if the school considers you an out-of-state student. Fortunately, some states have taken the steps to acknowledge all veterans as in-state students. To learn which states help you maximize your GI Bill benefits, click here:

<http://www.studentveterans.org/index.php/what-we-do/in-state-tuition>

7 Hazlewood Act

Certain qualified veterans and dependent children are exempted from specific tuition and fees in the state of Texas. To learn more about the Hazlewood Act and to see if you qualify call 1 (800) 252- 8387 or click here:

<http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Hazlewood-Act.aspx>





Before, during and after your military service,  
the VFW is here for you.

VFW Posts and SVA Chapters provide:

- networking opportunities with veteran business owners and community leaders.
- participation in fundraisers that benefit your fellow veterans.
- engagement in community service activities relevant to you.
- camaraderie among veterans you can relate to.
- a welcoming place for you to hang out.
- advocacy on the local, state and national level.



# VFW & SVA

Working Together For  
America's Heroes



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111 - 2778

version 1



## VFW: A Legacy of Advocacy

The Veterans of Foreign Wars continuously advocates on behalf of veterans. Testifying at committee hearings and interacting with congressional members has led the VFW to play an instrumental role in the passage of nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Among the VFW's most notable legislative efforts in making college education affordable for service members are the signing of the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, the Montgomery GI Bill in 1984 and the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2008. The VFW also fought to reinstate military Tuition Assistance.



## SVA: Empowering Student Veterans

Since Student Veterans of America's founding in 2008, the chapter network has grown from 20 campuses to over 950 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states. Chapters provide a peer-to-peer support network that empowers veterans to achieve academic success. In just a few years, SVA has grown to be the premiere advocate for veterans seeking better jobs and brighter futures through education.



## VFW & SVA: A Powerful Alliance

Both the VFW and SVA share a deep commitment to ensuring veterans succeed in post-secondary education programs, secure gainful employment and grow as leaders in the veteran community.

The VFW and SVA defend the GI Bill and support policies that best empower student veterans to achieve their educational goals and improve veterans' quality of life.

The nation's renewed focus on veterans' welfare has ignited change on campuses and in Congress. Both the VFW and SVA are committed to capitalizing on this momentum.



## VFW & SVA: Strengthen the Alliance

By being involved with an SVA Chapter and your local VFW Post, you're strengthening a relationship that helps to ensure a brighter future for veterans.

To find a VFW Post near you, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

Find an SVA Chapter near you at [www.studentveterans.org](http://www.studentveterans.org).

The VFW and SVA also created a program to assist student veterans experiencing difficulty accessing their GI Bill or other VA benefits.

Through the VFW's direct access to VA regional offices, the VFW is able to provide assistance in as little as 24 hours or the next business day.

For assistance, email the VFW at [1studentveteran@vfw.org](mailto:1studentveteran@vfw.org).



The VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" will provide service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Student veterans are encouraged to apply!

For details, please visit [www.vfw.org/scholarship](http://www.vfw.org/scholarship).



### VFW Programs

- Discuss each program's impact on the Post, community, youth, etc.
- Discuss how to select and motivate chairmen and volunteers
- Awards and how to use them effectively
- Reporting and record keeping

### VFW Culture

- History of the Post and its ambiance
- VFW politics at the Post, Department & National levels
- VFW publications and online channels
- The VFW canteen—advantages, disadvantages
- National officers—selection process, powers, impact on the organization
- Relationships between the Post, District, Department and National levels
- The values shared by veterans and VFW members
- The legacy of military service and the VFW
- Relationships between the service branches
- Recognizing and using generational diversity

### VFW & The Department of Veterans Affairs

- VA's history and purposes
- History of the relationship between VA and VFW
- VFW National Veterans Service—purpose, structure, activities

### VFW National Organization

- The purpose and responsibilities of each office under the Adjutant General
- The purpose and responsibilities of each office under the Quartermaster General
- Key staff members and their responsibilities

### VFW Membership

- Recruiting—its history, methods and necessity
- The value of membership—benefits, etc.
- Recruiting veterans from different conflicts, generations and genders

**Be a mentor** and ensure that the VFW and its **values persevere** for another century and beyond.

The VFW is a **group of individuals** brought together by a **common experience** and it is time to **guide young veterans** into becoming its future leaders.

VFW Programs  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)



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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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**MENTORING  
AND LEADERSHIP**