



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Calendar of Events

2025

July 4, 2025	Independence Day.
Aug. 9-13, 2025	National Convention, Columbus, OH
Aug. 22-24, 2025	Council of Administration Meeting, Tinley Park, IL
Aug. 23, 2025	State Commander's and Auxiliary President's Homecoming Banquet, Tinley Park, IL
September 11, 2025	Patriot Day
September 19, 2025	Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Recognition Day
September 20, 2025	Illinois Day at the National Home (Eaton Rapids, Michigan)
October 17-19, 2025	Big 10 Conference Bettendorf, IA
November 11, 2025	Veterans Day
December 7, 2025	Pearl Harbor Day

2026

February 6-8, 2026	Council of Administration meeting in Springfield, Illinois
February 7, 2026	State Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet in Springfield, IL
February 28-March 5, 2026	National Legislative Conference, Washington DC
May 1, 2026	Loyalty Day
May 25, 2026	Memorial Day
June 11, 2026	District Commander-Elect Training, Springfield, IL
June 11-14, 2026	State Convention, Springfield, IL
June 14, 2026	Flag Day
August 15-19, 2026	National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

2027

Feb 5-7, 2027	State VOD Banquet and Council of Administration Springfield, IL
June 10-13, 2027	State Convention, Springfield, IL
July 31-August 5, 2027	National Convention, Milwaukee, WI

2028

June 8-11, 2028	State Convention, Springfield
August 5-10, 2028	National Convention, San Antonio, TX

Deadline Dates to Remember for 2025-2026

July 31, 2025	Audits for quarter ending June 30 due to State HQ
August 1, 2025	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News
August 31, 2025	Quartermaster bonds issued through State HQ expire
August 31, 2025	Fall Program book ads due to State HQ
October 15, 2025	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News*
October 31, 2025	Audits for quarter ending September 30 due to State HQ
January 31, 2026	Audits for quarter ending December 31, 2025 due to State HQ
February 1, 2026	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News
April 1, 2026	Deadline to submit articles for Illinois VFW News*
April 15, 2026	Ads for Convention Book due to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Post Election Reports due.
April 30, 2026	Audits for the quarter ending March 31, 2026 due to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Any proposed By Law Changes for IL VFW By Laws due to State Adjutant
May 31, 2026	Any proposed Resolutions for consideration at State Convention due to State Adjutant
June 1, 2026	District election reports due to State HQ

VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES

NOTE: Updated for the 2025-2026 VFW Program Year

Membership

December 31, 2025	Post membership at 99% to receive certificate and \$100
February 1, 2026	District Membership at 99% to receive \$250 cash award
February 28, 2026	Post membership at 101% to receive \$150 Check for member meal
April 1, 2026	Districts with 101% in membership receive additional \$250 cash award
April 30, 2026	Deadline to determine winner of Cramer-Soden Award
April 30, 2026	Deadline to complete All-State Post Criteria to receive award at State Convention
April 30, 2026	Post with largest increase of Legacy Life Memberships (minimum 4) receives \$100 gift certificate to VFW Store
April 30, 2026	Deadline for Districts to have completed all Post Inspections and Inspections approved by State Inspector
June 1, 2026	100 new or reinstated members to receive \$500 to attend 2026 National Convention
June 15, 2026	Deadline to qualify for All State Post/District
June 30, 2026	Deadline to qualify for All American Post/District

Public Relations/Marketing

February 28, 2026	Deadline to submit nominations for State Publication Contest to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit nomination for News Media Professional of the Year to State HQ

Community Service

March 15, 2026	Deadline to submit Community Activities Report to State HQ in order to qualify for National Certificate of Recognition
April 1, 2026	Deadline to submit nomination of Volunteer of the Year to State HQ
May 1, 2026	Deadline for Post to submit Community Activities Recordbook to State HQ for judging
June 30	Community Service Reports deadline (National Dashboard)
July 1	National Community Service Posts of the Year (NCSP). The National Programs office will determine the top National Community Service Post of the year. Each Conference will have a ONCSP Winner based on total impact from July 1 to June 30 of the previous year

Americanism Program

April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit reports for Americanism Program to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit reports for POW-MIA Program to State HQ

Safety Program

April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit reports for Safety Program to State HQ
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Public Servant Recognition

January 1, 2026	Deadline to submit nominations for Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, Paramedic, Dispatcher of the Year to State HQ
February 1, 2026	Deadline for State to submit Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, Paramedic, Dispatcher of the Year to National
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit nominations for Outstanding Legislator, Outstanding Patriotism, Government Service, Clergy, Citizen, News Media, Employer, JROTC Cadet of the Year and Life Saving Award to State HQ

Veteran's Assistance

April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 min.) for MAP Program to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 min.) for Homeless Veteran donation to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 min.) for National Home to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to qualify for National Home Awards
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit reports for Hospital/VAVS Program to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to order Buddy Poppies
June 30, 2026	Deadline to submit donation (\$100 min.) for VMS Program to National HQ

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

October 31	Student entries to the Post
November 15	Completion of Post judging
December 1	Sponsorship money due at State HQ for Posts or Districts wishing to sponsor VOD/PP Scholarships, Pizza Party, or Ice Cream Social
December 15	District winners due to the State Headquarters
January 10	State Judging will be completed
January 10	District Participation Report due to the State Headquarters
January 15	Department winners due to National
January 31	Department reports due to National
April 30	Deadline to submit donation for VOD/PP to State HQ for Posts that had no nomination for VOD/PP

Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

October 31	Entries to the Post
November 15	Completion of Post judging
December 15	District Winners due to State HQ
December 29	District participation reports due to State HQ
January 10	Completion of Department judging
February 1	Department winners and reports due to National (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation)

Scout of the Year

March 1	Scout entries to the Post
April 1	Post entries to Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs
May 1	Department entry to National from Department Scouting Chairman or State HQs

Legislative Advocacy

May 31	Resolutions to be considered at State Convention due to State HQ
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Poppy Display Contest

April 30	Deadline for Convention Awards for Poppies
May 29	District judging of Poppy displays completed
June 8	District winners' Poppy Displays delivered to State Convention
June 30	Department sends State winners list to National HQ

Illinois Specific Programs

April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit reports for Blood Donor Program to State HQ
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April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 minimum) for Commander's Special Project to State HQ
April 30, 2026	Deadline to submit donation (\$50 minimum) for Service Office Support to State HQ

"Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairperson, be sure to communicate with your District Chairperson to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairperson need to communicate with their Department Chairperson to find out their deadlines.