

EASTERN COLORADO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



2020 CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL LOCAL COMPETITION

GENERAL HANDBOOK

Presented by

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Overview

Welcome to the 2020 Eastern Colorado Health Care System’s Veterans Local Creative Arts Competition and National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Nationwide, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities around the country compete in a local creative arts competition. Through a local then national judging process, first, second and third place entries in each category are determined. First place winners at the national level of the competition have the opportunity to be invited to the National Creative Arts Festival where the Veterans participate in various workshops, seminars, stage show, and more.

This General and all Division Handbooks explain how to participate in the Denver Local Competition to have the opportunity to advance to the National Competition. Please read through all paperwork in this handbook and the handbook you wish to enter. We look forward to seeing your talents shine!

Location for the 2020 Festival is undetermined at this time. Local Coordinators will inform Veterans of the location once available.

NVCAF LOCAL COORDINATORS FOR EASTERN COLORADO

Sarah El Hage

Office: 720-723-3156

Cell: 303-518-1382

Jessie Durham

Office: 720-723-6866

Cell: 720-527-8066

APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

2020 Timeline

January 31 10:00a – 12:00p Informational meeting & assistance with applications at RMRVAMC Auditorium

February 8 and 13 – Assistance with filming at VA (RSVP required for time slot)

February 14 – APPLICATIONS DUE

- All paperwork including entries for creative writing, dance, music, and drama due Feb. 14
- Physical artwork entries must be at VA no later than Feb. 27

February 27 3:00p – 6:00p - Drop off art entries at RMRVAMC Auditorium

February 27 – June 27 Artwork will be on display at RMRVAMC

March – Local Judging and winning entries are submitted to National

April 16 1:00-3:00 - Local NVCAF Awards Ceremony, Readings and Performances

June (Date TBD) - Pick up Art entries at RMRVAMC Auditorium

September National Winners Celebration

October/November - National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Dates and Location TBD

Definitions and Abbreviations

DIVISIONS are Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, and Music

CATEGORIES are the types of pieces inside the division. Examples of categories inside the Art division are oil painting, color photography, carving, and leather kit. Creative Writing are poetry, essay, short story, etc.

ECHCS (VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System). Veterans entering competition must receive care within any VA/CBOC within this VA system. This includes Colorado Springs, Pueblo, etc. If you receive your primary care in another system, you must enter at that VA facility s.

RMRVAMC (Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center) located in Aurora, CO. This is the main VA facility within the ECHCS system. Local coordinators, meetings and art display are located at this facility.

NVCAF (National Veterans Creative Arts Festival) – The Festival is located in a different city each year where the national winners of the competition participate in a weeklong festival of workshops, stage shows, and more.

ECHCS Local Competition – The first phase of the NVCAF competition. Each VA facility holds competitions at the local level, winners at the local level advance to the national phase. Local requirements may vary based on location and resources of each VA facility.

Local Coordinators – VA Staff organizing the local competition and liaison between National Coordinators and Veteran participants. Local coordinators will assist in process from the local to national phase of the festival. Local Coordinators at ECHCS are Sarah El Hage and Jessie Durham.

How to Participate

Any Veteran receiving their care at any VA Facility may participate in the NVCAF. Veterans receiving care at ECHCS, to include RMRVAMC and Clinics around Eastern Colorado, may participate in the ECHCS Local Competition. If a Veteran is receiving care at another VA Health Care System, please contact the NVCAF Local Coordinators at that facility, typically Recreation, Creative Arts and/or Music Therapy Departments. If you need assistance finding the appropriate Local Coordinator, please contact us for more information.

CAREFULLY READ THROUGH ALL INFORMATION IN THIS HANDBOOK AND THE DIVISION HANDBOOK(S) YOU ARE ENTERING (ART, CREATIVE WRITING, MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA).

If you do not have the handbook or need copies of the division that you are interested in entering you may obtain a copy from the following options:



1. **Go online** to download and print at www.denver.va.gov/services/recreational_therapy.asp or scan this QR code from your smart phone
2. **Contact Recreation Therapy using MyHealthVet** - You may request handbooks, ask questions and submit applications using this secure site. (Instructions provided on page 7 in this handbook)
3. **Email vhaechrmrartcommittee@va.gov** - Do not provide any patient information as this is not secure, please only provide your division of interest and we will send you a copy of the application(s). For Patient Privacy, **DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS USING THIS EMAIL, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WE CANNOT REPLY.** You may ask questions, obtain applications and submit photos using this email address.
4. **Call Local Coordinators** to have one mailed to you or to pick up at RMRVAMC. Allow extra time for this option. Contact Numbers are on page 2.

Applications and information how to submit your application and entry can be found in the respective division handbook. In efforts to save paper, division handbooks and applications are provided to you only if you have indicated what division you are interested in entering. **If you did not receive the handbook you would like to enter, please contact us as soon as possible to update your division of interest.**

Included in this mailing is a form to update your communication preferences and division of interest. Please take a moment to complete this and turn in with your application. This will help us streamline our process, save paper, and increase efficiency. Thank You!

How to Submit Applications

BEFORE SUBMITTING APPLICATION, PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THROUGH ALL INFORMATION IN BOTH THE GENERAL HANDBOOK AND THE DIVISION HANDBOOK(S) YOU ARE ENTERING

Review “SUBMITTING DIGITAL IMAGE FILES” Section(s) in your respective Division Handbook on how to submit CD/DVD’s, photos of artwork, Creative Writing entries along with your digital or hard copy of your application. Each Division has specific requirements on how to submit your entries. Review each handbook carefully.

FOR PATIENT PRIVACY , EMAILS OF APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Submitting photos via email and/or text will only be accepted if arranged and approved by Local Coordinators. Unsecured emails with patient information will be immediately deleted and VA staff will not reply. If available to assist Veteran, any VA Staff may send ENCRYPTED applications via VA email

If Veteran is located outside of the Denver Metro area contact Local Coordinators to assist and provide you with information about delivery options. Arrangements must be planned and approved by the due date on February 14.

Application and entries must be at RMRVAMC by due dates, not postmarked by due date. If there is a concern it will not arrive on time, contact Local Coordinators for more information and potential options.

Required paperwork, file types and the page to locate more information are listed on next page

WHEN READY TO SUBMIT APPLICATION, THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE AVIALABLE: (Choose one Option)

1. **DROP OFF** Hard Copies and/or CD/DVD’s in locked grey box located in Voluntary Service (Bldg G, First Floor)
Monday – Friday 7:00am – 4:00pm
2. **MAKE APPOINTMENT** with Local Coordinators for hand delivery (Contact info on page 2)
3. **MyHEALTHeVet:** Instructions provided on page 7.
4. **MAIL** hard copies application and/or CD/DVD’s to:

**Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center
1700 N. Wheeling St.
Attn: Recreation Therapy #117 - NVCAF
Aurora, CO 80045**

REQUIRED APPLICATION CHECK LIST

✓	<u>Required Paperwork</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>File type and submission requirements</u>	<u>Paperwork or More Info Found</u>
	Application Entry Form(s)	All	Hard Copy, Word Document or PDF's only. One application form per entry.	Back page of each Handbook
	Signed VA National and Local Consent Forms (2 Forms)	All	Hard copies or PDF's only. One set per Veteran	Back page of each handbook
	A written statement/narrative	All – Only if noted in the category number	Word document only. No hard copies, PDF's or other file types	Categories Sections in All Handbooks
	Photo(s) of artwork	Art	Hard copy or JPEG image(s) only. No PDFs or other file types	Art handbook Page #8
	Creative Writing Entry	Creative Writing	Word Document Only. No Hard Copy, PDFs or other file types	Creative Writing Handbook page #6
	DVD Video of Performing Arts Entry	Music, Dance, Drama	DVD of .MOV and .M4V File types only. No CD or Cell Phone Videos	Dance (pg #6), Music (pg #6), Drama (pg #5) Handbooks

Digital Files of Application and Entries can be saved on a CD (Documents and Photos), DVD (Performing Arts Videos) or sent via MyHealtheVet, no USB allowed.

More information how to submit digital files are located in each handbook as requirements vary depending for each division

ALL APPLICATION PAPERWORK DUE
FEBRUARY 14, 2020

ARTWORK DUE: FEBRUARY 27, 2020

RMRVAMC Auditorium between 3:00 – 6:00

MyHealthe Vet Instructions for Veterans

It is recommended that you sign up for “My Healthy Vet” which is a website that offers Vets anytime access to VA health care information and service. It is a free online personal health record that empowers Veterans to become informed partners in their health care with tools to help develop good health habits and to enhance communication with their health care team.

Some of the benefits My Healthy Vet registered users can:

- * Store and organize important health information
- * Download key portions of their VA record
- * Refill your VA prescriptions online
- * View your VA prescription history
- * Use secure messaging to communicate with your VA health team

How to Register for My HealtheVet:

1. Go to www.myhealth.va.gov
2. Select the **Register Today!** Button
3. On the registration page, enter your profile information. The following are required: your full name, Social Security Number, gender and date of birth.
4. Under the **Relationship to VA** section, if you use the VA Healthcare System, select **Va Patient**. You may also select Veteran or any other relationship you have with VA.
5. Enter your primary mailing address and contact information.
6. In the Account Information section:
 - *Create a User ID
 - *Create a Password
 - *Select your password hint questions and enter responses
7. Read and accept the **Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy**.
8. Select **Save** to process your form.

To have the highest access to My HealtheVet, **Premium Account** you need to complete Authentication. In this process the VA verifies your identity as a Veteran/patient before allowing you access to your health record via My HealtheVet. Here at the RMR VAMC that may be done by verifying with MSA at Your Firm’s Front Desk

ONCE YOU ARE REGISTERED, SEARCH THE FOLLOWING CLINIC NAMES OR PROVIDERS TO SUBMIT NVCAF APPS AND ENTRIES:

- ECHCS-RECREATION THERAPY
- RMR-REC-THER-CREAT-ARTS
- SARAH EL HAGE
- JESSIE DURHAM

For additional assistance and/or if you don't see your providers on your list contact
MyHealthVet Office at 720-723-6279 or Larry Wilson (719) 428-9215

Veterans Day Poster Submissions

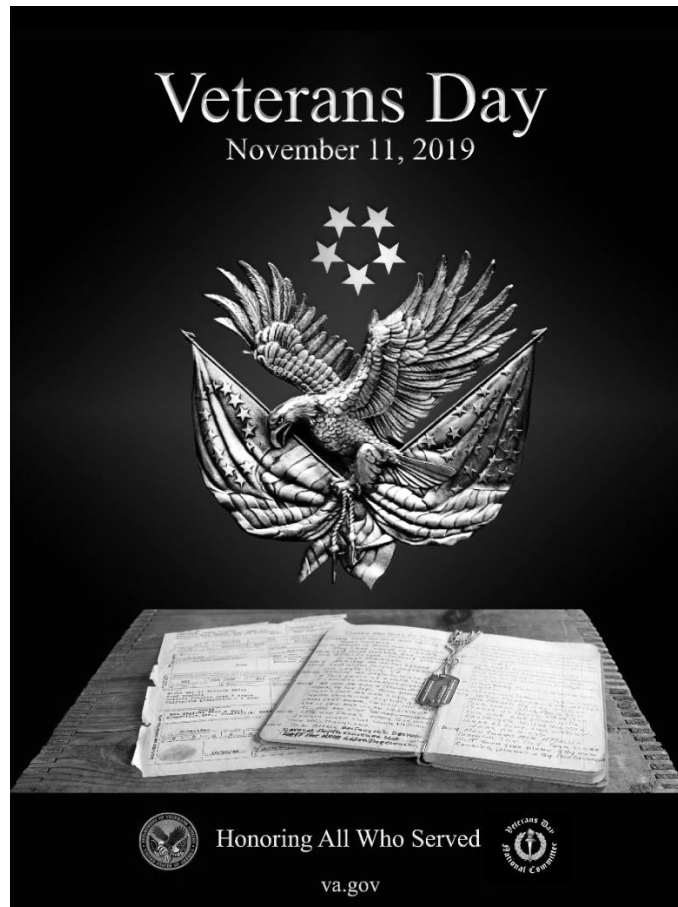
The Veterans Day Poster *is not* a category within the National Veterans Creative Arts competition.

Veterans who wish to submit *electronic jpeg images* for consideration of the 2020 Veterans Day Poster should visit the website <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/> and follow the instructions for submitting Veterans Day Poster images.

The Veterans Day National Committee will review artwork from various artist sources and will select the artwork for the poster in May, 2020.

If chosen, the artist agrees to relinquish any and all rights to the poster. The poster will become public domain and will be used for Veterans Day purposes.

To view Veterans Day Posters from previous years, visit the Veterans Day website at:
<http://www.va.gov/vetsday> and click on "Poster Gallery."



2020 Therapeutic Arts Scholarship

Shirley Jefferies and Muriel Barbour Memorial

Shirley Jefferies, a recreation therapist at the Waco, Texas, VA Medical Center, and former chief of recreation therapy at the Knoxville, Iowa VA medical facility, initiated the performing arts competition, The National Music Competition for Veterans, in 1981 as part of the International Year of Disabled Persons.

Muriel Barbour, former chief of recreation therapy at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, created the visual arts competition, VET ARTS, in 1981, as an observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons.

The Music Festival and VET ARTS merged and drama and dance divisions were added, to create the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1989. In 2005, the creative writing division was added to the Festival roster. Shirley Jefferies passed away in 1994. Muriel Barbour passed away in November 2009. The Therapeutic Arts Scholarship for a performing artist is presented in their memory.

The Therapeutic Arts Scholarship is a unique opportunity for Veterans entering the Creative Arts Competition. VA staff persons can nominate one Veteran from their facility for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective. The Veteran(s) who are selected will receive an invitation to participate at the 2020 Festival with lodging and meals provided via national Festival funds. Scholarship recipients will be notified via their staff contact person by late-June 2020.

Nomination Criteria:

- Only one Veteran can be nominated for a scholarship from each facility and only one nomination form can be submitted for that Veteran.
- Veteran must enter at least one category in any of the five divisions on the national level.
- Veteran must be a first-place winner in the local level of competition.
- Veteran must be a novice/first-time participant in the Festival (but not necessarily a first-time participant in the competition).
- Entry placement (first, second or third) in the national competition will not be a factor in the selection process.
- Consent form 10-3203 (page 19-20) and 10-5345 (page 21) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

The completed Therapeutic Arts Scholarship Nomination Form (page 18) must be submitted along with the competition entry and consent forms signed by the Veteran. A panel made up of national committee members will review the nominations and select those whom it is felt would benefit most from participating in the Festival.

Nominations for the Therapeutic Arts Scholarship MUST include:	
✓	Entry Form specific to the division entered
✓	Therapeutic Arts Scholarship Nomination Form (page 18) that includes <u>a written statement/narrative</u> by one or more VA staff persons (25 to 225 words) explaining why the Veteran could potentially benefit therapeutically from the Festival experience

