

Americanism

American Legion Auxiliary

2022-2023



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Chairman

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Americanism Department Chairman Program 2022-2022

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country

Per the American Legion: "Americanism is an ideology, or belief in devotion, loyalty, or allegiance to the United States of America, or to its flag, traditions, customs, culture, symbols, institutions or form of government."

Americanism can also be described as a feeling of pride, such as being proud to say I am an American no matter where you are, at any given time. We have also heard the word Patriotism, which according to Mark Twain means "this is supporting your Country all the time and your government when it deserves it."

Americanism activities can be defined as all matters pertaining to the flag or patriotic education. Each time you Pledge Allegiance to the flag you are participating in this program. If your Unit provides patriotic materials to your schools, libraries or anyone else in the community, you are participating in Americanism. Other possible activities may be to provide new flags for local schools, scout troops, community buildings, promote Americanism month in February by getting the community involved in flying their flags. You can set up a booth in local malls, stores, libraries, etc., distributing literature about flag etiquette and proper care of the flag.

In today's world we must show how proud we are of our Country. When we are at a parade, ballgame, or any ceremony and the flag goes by or is flying high, stand up, put your hand over your heart to show your pride.

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Americanism Objectives

1. Be knowledgeable of flag history, etiquette, proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays, so the community will look to the ALA for information.

- Teach proper handling, displaying and disposal respect for the American Flag.
- Publish flag etiquette tips in your newsletter and on social media.
- Model respect for our flag and National Anthem at all public events, particularly on patriotic holidays.
- Encourage local businesses and Legion Family members to wear an American flag pin all the time and on patriotic holidays, etc.
- Organize or participate in local patriotic events (organize a parade, march in a parade, have a float in a parade).
- Visit schools to give basic facts about our flag, our National Anthem, and when to stand and put our hand over our heart at parades and ball games.
- Work with schools to further education about the US Constitution either as a whole or simply focus on the Bill of Rights or Preamble.
- VOTE! Take your children/grandchildren with you. Let them get an "I voted" sticker. Many county offices have coloring books for children on what it means to vote.

2. Increase awareness and participation in youth activities that support proper respect of our flag and loyalty to our country.

This year's Americanism Essay Contest theme for 2022-2023 will be "**What does Patriotism Mean to You?**"

- Encourage participation in the Americanism Essay Contest by increasing awareness through stronger networking in schools and all local youth groups.
- Teaching flag awareness in your local school.
- Involve Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC and the community in your Post flag retirement ceremonies.
- Participate in the pocket flag program. Have youth groups fold the flags and help package them for distribution to active-duty military.
- Contribute to the Spirit of Youth Fund.

3. Promote Auxiliary participation in American Legion Americanism programs.

- Hold a fundraiser in support of American Legion baseball, oratorical and shooting sports.
- Be a driver, scorekeeper, judge.
- Work the refreshment stand.

Patriotic Holidays

By displaying our flag on these days, we are supporting the following objectives:

- Teaching handling, displaying, disposal and respect for the American flag.
- Model respect for our flag.
- Encourage local businesses and Legion Family members to fly an American flag on patriotic holidays.

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on:

Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday – third Monday in January

President's Day – February 7th

Armed Forces Day – third Saturday in May

Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) – last Monday in May

Flag Day/Army Birthday – June 14th

Independence Day – July 4th

Coast Guard Birthday

Patriots Day 9/11

Constitution Day 9/17

Air Force Birthday 9/18

POW/MIA Day -third Friday in September 4

Navy Birthday 10/13

Marine Corp Birthday 11/10

National Guard Birthday 12/13

Space Force Birthday 12/30

Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States

Birthdays of States (date of admission)

National Awards

1. This year's Essay Contest will be "What Does Patriotism Mean to You?". One award in each of the five classes will be presented in Division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name to the National President's Scholarship. The Americanism essay cover sheet is at the end of Department Chairman's program and is available at alafl.org. Department winners in each of the five classes will receive a certificate and medal. All entries must be submitted to the Department Chairman by April 1, 2023.

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

2. Dorothy Pearl Plaque A plaque will be presented to the Unit that reports Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to children and youth. The entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. A maximum of five pictures and news articles may be included. All entries must be submitted to the Department Chairman 30 days prior to Department Convention which will be May 17, 2023

Department Awards

1. Doris E. Hahn Trophy "Best All-Around Award for Americanism Activities". Entry to be typed on 8 ½" x 11" paper, double spaced, narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words, and submitted to Department Chairman 30 days prior to Convention which will be May 17, 2023. Unit must have sponsored at least one girl to Girl's State. Report to include only Americanism activities. Check Unit guide for additional information.
2. Chairman's Award to a Unit that Promotes the best "Star Spangled Kids" program. Entry to be typed on 8 ½" x 11" paper, double spaced, narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Please see "How to Promote Star Spangled Kids" for additional guidelines Narrative can be stapled. Cover page to include Unit name and number, name of President and Americanism Chairman. Please include pictures. Report is due to Department Chairman 30 days prior to the Department Convention which will be May 17, 2023.

Reporting

1. Unit Reports are due to District Chairman no later than April 1st, 2023
2. District Reports are due to the Department Chairman no later than April 15th
Forms and instructions can be found on the Department Website at ALAFL.org

Resources

1. American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters at www.ALAforVeterans.org
2. Pocket Flag Project at www.pocketflagproject.com or write Pocket Flag Project, P O Box 240847, Arvada CO 80006
3. Emblem sales at www.emblem.legion.org. Flag education DVD explains the history significance, meaning, proper display and treatment of the U.S. flag. "Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette" is a booklet on proper flag etiquette.
4. The American Legion Flag Advocacy at www.legion.org/flag
5. American Legion's Action Program of Americanism brochure at www.legion.org/publications. See program page on www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional resources.
6. Spirit of Youth Fund scholarships, American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters at www.ALAforVeterans.org.