



## *Americanism Department Chairman Program 2018-2019*

So many of our American values are under attack these days. The Pledge of Allegiance is virtually gone from schools; our flag is being desecrated; some no longer stand for our national anthem; and monuments and memorials are being vandalized, destroyed or torn down. It is incumbent upon the American Legion Family and our Auxiliary to preserve and protect these ideals and symbols of our democracy by promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship through educating our community, our adults and our youth.

National's guidelines for Americanism have changed in the past few years and fall under goal 5 of the 5-year strategic plan, build brand loyalty. We have three main objectives: to promote flag respect, usage, history and disposal; to involve and educate our youth; and to support the Legion Americanism programs. You have been provided with some action steps and ideas to help you succeed. Try something new with your own Americanism Program, and remember above all to be enthusiastic and enjoy doing it. We have also provided you with some resources that are full of valuable information that I am sure will help you throughout the year.

Department President Michele DeGennaro's 2018-2019 theme is "All In". We **are** All In and "Flush with American Pride" and we are here to help in pursuit of this effort.

For God and Country,

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## *Americanism Objectives*

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

- Teach proper handling, displaying, disposal and respect for the American flag.
- Publish flag etiquette tips in your newspaper and on social media.
- Model respect for our flag and National Anthem at all public events, particularly at sporting events.
- Encourage local businesses and Legion Family members to fly an American flag on patriotic holidays.
- Organize or participate in local patriotic events (i.e... organize a parade, march in a parade, have a float in the parade).
- Visit schools to give basic facts about our flag, our national anthem, and when to stand and put our hands over our hearts at parades and ball games. Make sure they have a copy of the “Let’s Be Right on Flag Etiquette.”
- Work with local schools to further education about the Constitution or parts, such as the Bill of Rights or the Preamble; the Declaration of Independence; teach a class on the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Contact your state and federal representatives and ask them to support the flag amendment.
- 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 for our flag and loyalty to our country.**

- This year’s Americanism Essay Contest • 2018 – 2019 Theme: **“How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”**
- Encourage participation in the Americanism Essay Contest by increasing awareness through stronger networking in schools, youth groups (i.e., 4-H, YMCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, FFA/FHA, JRROTC, girl scouts and boy scouts), and home school associations.
- Teach flag awareness in your local school.
- Involve boy scouts, girl scouts or JRROTC in your Post flag retirement ceremonies.
- Participate in the pocket flag program. Have youth organizations fold the flags and help package them up for distribution to our active-duty military.
- Contribute to the Spirit of Youth Fund.

### **3. Promote Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs.**

- Hold a fundraiser in support of American Legion Baseball, Oratorical, or shooting sports events
- Be a driver, scorekeeper, judge
- Work the refreshment stand

## *Resources:*

1. American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters: [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
2. Pocket Flag Project: [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com) or write Pocket Flag Project, P.O. Box 740847, Arvada, CO 80006.
3. Emblem Sales: [www.emblem.legion.org](http://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 - a "question and answer" booklet on proper flag etiquette.
4. The American Legion Flag Advocacy: [www.legion.org/flag](http://www.legion.org/flag)
5. The American Legion's Action Program of Americanism brochure: [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications) See program page on [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) for additional resources.
6. Spirit of Youth Fund scholarships at American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters: [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)



**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST  
2019 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) after convention.

**Essay Title:** *"How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?"*

**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.

**Essay Checklist:**

- Class competing in \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsoring ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay \_\_\_\_\_
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit \_\_\_\_\_

**To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):**

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit winner due to Department on: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Department Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2019*

Americanism



## *Patriotic Holidays*

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

- Teach proper 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:

New Year's Day - January 1

Inauguration Day - January 20

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - third Monday in January

Lincoln's Birthday - February 12

Washington's Birthday - third Monday in February

Easter Sunday - (variable)

Mother's Day - second Sunday in May

Armed Forces Day - third Saturday in May

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

Flag Day - June 14

Independence Day - July 4

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27

Labor Day - first Monday - September 1 - 7

Columbus Day - second Monday in October

Navy Day - October 27

Veterans Day - November 11

Thanksgiving Day - fourth Thursday in November

Christmas Day - December 25

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

Birthdays of States (date of admission)

State holidays

## *Americanism Reporting*

### *Mid-Year:*

#### **1. Mid-Year Narratives:**

Please send a narrative to your District Americanism Chairman by **December 1, 2018**. You are encouraged to include any pictures or news articles. District Chairman must send the narratives to the Department Americanism Chairman by **December 15, 2018**.

### *Year-End:*

#### **1. Year-End Reports:**

Your Year-End Reporting form must reach your District Americanism Chairman by **April 1, 2019**. Please include a narrative report (with narrative year-end report form). Please be encouraged to send pictures and/or news articles. District Chairman must send the Year-End Reports to the Department Americanism Chairman by **April 15, 2019**.

### *Narratives should include answers to the following questions:*

- How did the Unit promote the Americanism essay contest?
- How did the Unit promote the flag usage, display and disposal?
- How did the Unit promote patriotic holidays?
- How did the Unit support our military and veterans?
- Did the Unit support The American Legion Americanism programs? How?
- How did the Unit promote Americanism in your community?
- How did the Unit spend time in the classroom teaching youth about Americanism ideals?
- Did the Unit contribute to the Spirit of Youth Fund?



## Unit Year-End Report 2018-2019

I am a member of Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_ My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is what we did in the twelve months from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2018 to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2019

**1. Service for active duty military** (Examples include pocket flags and support of the amendment to protect the United States Flag from desecration (HJ Res 8))

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Service for military families** (Examples include American Essay Contest, Flag etiquette)

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

**Promote the ALA's value of Americanism through community education about flag etiquette, respect in support of our country and our military.**

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Promote patriotism through Unit involvement in community events.**

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Promote Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs.**

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Unit Reports Due to District Chairman by April 1, 2019\*\*\***



## District Year End Report 2018-2019

District # \_\_\_\_\_ My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is what we did in the twelve months from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2018 to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2019

- 1. Service for active duty military** (Examples include pocket flags and support of the amendment to protect the United States Flag from desecration (HJ Res 8)

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. Service for military families** (Examples include American Essay Contest, Flag etiquette)

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Promote the ALA's value of Americanism through community education about flag etiquette, respect in support of our country and our military.**

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Promote patriotism through Unit involvement in community events.**

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. Promote Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs.**

Hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of service \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars Spent \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* District Reports Due to Department Chairman by April 15, 2019\*\*\***





## Department of Florida Americanism Cover sheet 2018-2019

Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman or Person Reporting:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this cover sheet for your "Year-End Narrative Report". The deadline for all Narratives to Department Chairman is **April 15, 2019**. You may attach/ include as many additional pages and pictures as you wish.

## *Americanism Awards*

### *National Awards*

#### **1. Americanism Essay Contest: 2018-2019**

Theme: “**How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?**”

One award in each of five classes will be presented in each 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 this department chairman program and available at [www.alaf1.org](http://www.alaf1.org). Department winners in each five classes will receive a certificate and a medal. All entries must be submitted to the Department Chairman by **April 1, 2019**.

#### **2. Dorothy Pearl Plaque:**

A plaque will be presented to the Unit that reports the 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 by **May 15, 2019**.

### *Department Awards*

**1. Doris E. Hahn Award:** "Best All Around Award for Americanism Activities". Entry to be Typed, 8 1/2" x 11" paper, doubled spaced, narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words, submitted in a loose-leaf folder. This may include: pictures, newspaper clippings inserted behind entry only. All entries must be submitted to the Department Chairman by **May 15, 2019**. Unit must have sponsored at least one girl to Girls State. Report to include Americanism Activities only. Check Unit Guide for additional information.

**2. Special Recognition Award** to a unit that turns in a narrative describing a new activity in a classroom teaching our youth about the flag, Pledge of Allegiance, Declaration of Independence etc. Entry to be Typed, 8 1/2" x 11" paper, doubled spaced, narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Narrative can be stapled, cover page to include unit name and number, name of unit president and Americanism chairman. Please include pictures. Report due to Department Chairman by **May 15, 2019**.