

## **AMERICANISM**

American Legion Auxiliary  
2021 - 2022



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## **Americanism Department Chairman Program 2021-2022**

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.
  - 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 2021-2022 will be announced at a later date.

- 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 or JRROTC 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 7<sup>th</sup>

Armed Forces Day – third Saturday in May

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

Flag Day – June 14<sup>th</sup>

Independence Day – July 4<sup>th</sup>

September 9/11

POW/MIA Day -third Friday in September

Veteran's Day – November 11<sup>th</sup>

Pearl Harbor Day – December 7<sup>th</sup>

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

Birthdays of States (date of admission)

## Resources

1. American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
2. Pocket Flag Project at [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com) or write Pocket Flag Project, P O Box 240847, Arvada CO 80006
3. Emblem sales at [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” is a booklet on proper flag etiquette.
4. The American Legion Flag Advocacy at [www.legion.org/flag](http://www.legion.org/flag)
5. The American Legion’s Action Program of Americanism brochure at [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, American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).