

Americanism Bulletin

2024-2025

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End Year Reports are due to me by May 1, 2025

My focus this year for Americanism is to increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?" What a great opportunity to educate our youth on everything American!

How can we promote Americanism:

Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal methods.

- Publish flag etiquette tips in your newspaper and on social media.
- Educate others on how to respect the flag.
- Conduct a flag disposal ceremony.
- Host flag awareness events and communicate information
- Encourage members to fly a flag.
- Order pocket flag kits and distribute to members for assembly.
- Identify and distribute assembled pocket flags to active-duty military overseas.

Promote the observation of patriotic holidays.

- Volunteer for a local patriotic event.
- Organize a patriotic holiday event.
- Sign up to receive notifications on when to display your flag at half-staff at www.legion.org

Encourage members to vote.

- Encourage members to participate in Get Out the Vote and Kids Voting USA campaigns.
- Vote, and encourage others to vote.

Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

- Contact schools and other organizations such as the Young Marines, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and 4-H about the essay contest.
- Encourage Junior members to participate in the essay contest.
- Create information packets explaining contest rules, deadline dates, theme and award opportunities.
- Work with school administration to identify guidance counselors, history teachers, etc., whose students would be interested in participating

SPECIAL THIS YEAR: Let's include our Veterans in the Essay Contest! There will be a special category this year (only for Department of Oregon) for our Veterans to give their unique perspective on what Freedom means to them.

Americanism Questionnaire

Submitted by: _____

Unit: _____

Number of volunteer hours served for all Americanism Projects: _____

Number of Volunteers: _____

Total dollars raised to benefit all Americanism Projects: _____

Total dollars give in Americanism Projects: _____

Number of pocket copies of the Constitution given out: _____

Number of Patriotic coloring books given out: _____

Number of "Star Spangled Kids" books given out: _____

How did your unit promote the Star Spangled Kids: _____

How did your unit educate children and youth about the Constitution: _____

What training on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods did your units provide: _____

What avenues were used to increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest: _____

Americanism Awards

Maxine Bigalow Memorial, Past National President:

A narrative report to include the following requirements:

- Current events or Legislative reports.
- At least one (1) joint meeting with Legion family held in February. (Americanism month)
- Working with youth, including church groups, schools, etc.
- Narrative Report may include copies of your local current events (social media included), newspaper clippings, and other pictures relating to your project. (not required).
- Must include the Unit name, number, the name of Unit President, and name of Unit Chair.

The Americanism Chairman and selected judges will determine the winner.

R. Marie Martin Award:

- Awarded to the Unit with the most outstanding narrative report highlighting their Americanism program.
- Must include the Unit name, number, the name of Unit President, and name of Unit Chair.

The Americanism Chairman and selected judges will determine the winner.

Americanism National Essay Contest:

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary 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 awarded in each division.

The Americanism Chairman and selected judges will determine the winner.

National

Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors national President's Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org after National convention. The Essay Title changes each year and will be available for you from National with the Essay Title cover sheet and requirements (attached).

Note: Cash awards are distributed through National.

Barbara Sumner/Sid Carter, Junior Activities Americanism Award:

Awarded for the best Narrative report on the promotion of Americanism.

- The report may be a one-time event or for the year's activities.
- Not to exceed 500 words.
- Must include the Unit name and number.

The Americanism Chairman and selected judges will determine the winner.