

Americanism American
Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
2018-2019

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For God and Country

Purpose

"To foster and perpetuate a 100 % Americanism. To inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship through education and acts of patriotism.

The Department of Michigan's objectives are aligned with the National objectives which will help and encourage us to achieve many successful Americanism programs.

2014-2019 ALA Centennial Strategic Plan: Promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship help us fulfill our brand promise (Goal 5) by giving U.S. citizens a chance to participate in our mission by feeling patriotic and demonstrating their support in an active, visible way.

Where do we find out about the ALA Americanism Programs:

Department of Michigan Program Guide: michalaux.org

National website: ALAforVeterans.org

Members Only - 2017-2022 ALA Programs Action Guide / Americanism
2018-2019 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan/ Americanism

Objectives

1. To demonstrate and promote the Auxiliary's commitment to Americanism to the Community through our leadership. In support of all Patriotic Days, our commitment to the United States of America, and to all our military.
2. To increase awareness and participation in adult and youth activities through the year showing proper respect for the American Flag and loyalty to the United States of America.
3. To hold on going activities that demonstrate Americanism. To participate with the American Legion Americanism programs always.
4. To show pride and commitment in being a member of the world's largest patriotic Woman's organization; our American Legion Auxiliary.

What can you do?

Objective 1

Have all members knowledgeable of our flag history, etiquette, including the proper salute whether veteran or civilian, and proper disposal of all Flags, enabling them to go out into the community to show and teach all these things correctly in schools, service organizations, and religious institutions.

Let the community be Aware of our knowledge and always be willing to tell about our great flag.

Under this heading, a Unit may have a Flag Education Program so that all Unit members will have this knowledge. This would be the time to demonstrate and have members participate in the correct way to fold a Flag. This part of the program may be joint activity with your Post's Legionnaires. All Unit members can then go out into the community and do this program in all schools, all other service organizations such as Lions Club etc., Big Brother and Big Sisters organizations, and all religious institutions. There are many resources available and materials available thru Flag and Emblem sales

Honor Guards are also a great resource for the folding of the Flag and would be honored to help any Unit.

We should be proud to fly our Flag every day, but most especially on all Patriotic Holidays. Did you know that flying you flag everyday is worth 720 hours an average of month? Do you wear patriotic clothing/Auxiliary apparel? (clothing, jewelry, pins, etc.)

Hold events on the Patriotic Holidays and use all media to bring attention to what your Unit is doing. This activity can also be included in your Public Relations programs.

Participate in the Get out to Vote and Kids Voting USA campaigns. Information on these programs is available at www.legion.org/vote and www.kidsvotingusa.org.

Our Auxiliary will also speak to all legislators when there is a question about our flag not being properly respected at all times. We will not stand by idly and let anyone abuse our flag.

Objective 2

YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

To increase awareness and participation in youth activities that show proper loyalty to the United States of America and the Flag for which it stands. We must encourage this participation in all schools by getting into schools and making the demonstrations. This way, all schools, communities, and community programs understand that the Auxiliary is a resource for all of these programs.

There are many programs available under Youth activities such as American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, and the Oratorical Contest. Also “The Americanism Essay Contest” is open to all ages.

As a Unit, make presentations to Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers in your community. Remember them when you hold your Memorial Service.

The Auxiliary can hand out flags in schools, parades (if your community allows), sports games, and anywhere else at any time of year. Always make the Auxiliary and the Flag your primary goal for all to see. Proudly wear your American Flag lapel pin everywhere, so that everybody will ask “Where did you get the pin”? Then it can be answered,

“As a proud American Legion Auxiliary member, I am honored to wear this pin, as every American should”.

Use the public relations person for your Unit. Talk about the Auxiliary at every opportunity. Have a 2 minute speech ready, don’t make it long and boring, but do make it short, sweet and fun. This could be an event for a Unit meeting so everyone understands the importance of telling about the Auxiliary and all we do. Every member of a Unit should have an Auxiliary emblem. Then emblem is not just for officers. This emblem gives the public something visual and then the member can start a conversation. Wear the emblem with pride, to any function that you attend.

Be proud to be an Auxiliary member and be proud to tell about it.

NATIONAL AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

We need to increase participation in all age categories for the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's Essay Title:

"How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?"

*****This year we would like to encourage all entries to be done in same font and size. Our recommendation is: 12PT font and in Times New roman or Arial Style, no borders or emblems***

STUDENT AWARD-AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Type of award: Citation, \$50 prize and additional \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship Fund.

Awards will be presented to: One winner in each class for a total of six classes, all entries sent to Department will be receive a Participation Certificate.

All the guidelines and forms are on the National website and may be downloaded so the correct form may be presented for the correct age group.

**Essays are to be judged by Districts (deadline set by District)
District Americanism Chairman must send to Department Chairman
Send to Department Chairman by March 30, 2019**

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**PLEASE NOTE DATE OF APRIL 15 ON THE AMERICANISM COVER SHEET IS NATIONAL DEADLINE
NOT DEPARTMENTS. Do not forget to provide Unit Name and Number**



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

2019 COVER SHEET

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an American 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 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 students Grade level

Essay Checklist:

- **Class competing in** _____
- **Sponsoring ALA Unit** _____
- **Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class**
- **Completed essay cover sheet 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 and Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman _____

Unit Winner due to Department on: 3/30/2019 Department of Michigan

Signature of Department Chairman _____

Objective 3

Participate in the Promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs

1. Oratorical Contest and all the monetary incentives that is available to help get junior members to participate. Always be willing to help the chairman of the Oratorical Contest in any way.
2. Support American Legion Baseball
3. Support Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth

Objective 4

REPORTING shows pride and commitment to the ALA

We need to remember that Americanism is intertwined in every program the ALA offers.

As we have given you the ideas and resources to promote you Americanism Program in your Unit or District. Let us not forget our reporting of Activities, time spent, dollars spent, and value of donated items. A worksheet has been included at the back of this Guide.

Mid-Year reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of Units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Americanism chairman. This report is due to National by January 5, 2019. All reports due to your District chairman by the deadline set by your District. District reports are due to Department Chairman by December 15, 2018.

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of Units in the department and may result in a National Award for participants if award requirements are met. Each Department Americanism Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by May 15, 2019. All Unit reports are submitted to District Chairman by deadline set by the District.

District Chairman will submit reports to Department chairman by April 30, 2019

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

DOROTHY PEARL Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program Award

To be presented to the Unit that reports the Most Outstanding Overall Americanism.

The entry must be typewritten in narrative format and not to exceed 1,000 words. The entry may include no more than 5 pictures and 5 news articles. The District Chairman must send the winning entry to the Department Chairman to be judged. The winner will be sent on to National for the Dorothy Pearl Citation.

This award is named for National President Dorothy Pearl 1946-47,
Past President, Department of Michigan 1940-41

EVA SPAULDING CITATION

Award presented to the Unit having the most outstanding Americanism Program in the Department targeted to Children and Youth. This entry is to be typewritten in narrative form and is not to exceed 1000 words. Entries must be judged by the District. The District Chairman must send the winning entry to the Department Chairman to be judged.

Named for Past Department President Eva Spaulding, St. John's Unit 53, 1924-1925.

MARY RIPLEY CITATION

Award presented to the Unit having the greatest percentage of activity in Americanism. Entries must be sent to Department Chairman.

This award named for Past Department President Mary Ripley, Sault Ste Marie Unit 2, 1931-1932.

MILLION MEMBER CITATION

Presented too one Unit, This entry must typewritten in a narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words. **A maximum of 5 pictures and news articles may be included. Must demonstrate how working the mission of the Americanism Committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the Unit.**

DONNA BALEY CITATION

Award presented to the District Chairman for promotion of the most outstanding Americanism Program. This entry is to be typewritten in a narrative form and not to exceed 1000 words, may include no more than 5 pictures and no more than 5 news articles. The District Chairman must send the winning entry to the Department Chairman to be judged. This Award is named in honor of Donna Baley, Past Department President, Sturgis Unit 73, 1979-1980.

Additional Resources You can Use

1. American Legion Flags and Emblem Sales: 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
2. The America Legion Flag Advocacy: www.emblem.legion.org
3. The American Legion's Action Programs of Americanism Brochure: www.legion.org/publications
4. www.ALAforveterans.org
2017-2022 American Legion Auxiliary Program Action Plan and
Annual Americanism supplement to the Program Action Plan
5. National Committee Members: Amerianism@ALAforVeterans.org
6. Pocket Flag Project: www.pocketflagproject.com
7. Capital Building Flags: To order flags flown over the Capital, contact your congressional representative or senator or visit his or her web site. Flags are available for a nominal fee; four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.
8. www.homeofheroes.com

PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS

Labor Day- 1st Monday of September

Patriots Day- September 11

National Anthem Anniversary- September 14

POW-MIA Recognition Day- 3rd Friday of September

Navy Day- October 27

Veterans Day- November 11

Americanism- Month of February

Armed Forces Day-3rd Saturday of May

Memorial Day- Last Monday of May

Flag Day- June 14

Independence Day- July 4

***All forms for submission are on the National website. Please see the National website for further information it has the most up to date material*

AMERICANISM REPORT Worksheet

1. Promoting Flag Etiquette and History

- # of Flag programs conducted in schools: # # members participating # Total # Hours #
Money spent \$ value Value in-kind donations \$ value
- # of Flags distributed (not counting Naturalization Ceremonies) #
- # flag etiquette tips published on social media: # In newspaper: text.
- # Naturalization Ceremonies participated in: text. # members participating: enter text. #
flags distributed: text. # etiquette pamphlets distributed: enter text. Total # hrs: text. Money
spent \$ text. # citizens welcomed: text.
- # Flag disposal ceremonies participated in/attend: text. Total members enter text. Total
Hours enter text.
- Did you participate in folding pocket flags for troops Choose an item. Total # folded text. Total
members participating enter text. Total # hours enter text.
- Other activities (include total hrs, total members and description): Click or tap here to enter
text.

2. Patriotic Events/holidays

- Did you promote Patriotic Holidays? Choose an item. Describe how: Click or tap here to enter
text.
- Did you participate in patriotic events? Choose an item. Total # participating: enter text. Total
hours: enter text. Describe events: Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Promoting Americanism in Community

- Total hrs flag flown: enter text. Total # members flying flag: enter text.
- Total # other patriotic displays: enter text. Total hrs displayed: enter text. Total # members w/
displays: enter text.
- Total # members wearing patriotic/Auxiliary apparel (clothing, jewelry, pins, etc.): enter text
Total number of times worn: enter text. Total Hours worn: enter text.
- Did you encourage businesses to fly flags: Choose an item. How? Click or tap here to enter text.
- Other activities (include total hrs, total members and description): Click or tap here to enter
text.

4. Get out and Vote

- Did you participate in Get out and Vote events: Choose an item. Kids Voting USA: Choose an
item.
- # Get out and vote messages published on social media: enter text. In newspaper: text.
- # Members voting: enter text.
- Other Activities (include total hrs, total members and description): Click or tap here to enter
text.

5. Flag Protection Amendment - The amendment currently reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

- Number of letters written to State/Federal Representatives asking for their support of the Flag
Protection Amendment: enter text.

- **# Flag protection messages published on social media:** enter text. **Newspaper:** enter text.
- **Other Activities (include total hrs, total members and description):** Click or tap here to enter text.

6. Americanism Essay Contest - "What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community?"

- **Is your unit promoting/participating:** Choose an item. **# of schools contacted:** text
of teachers contacted: enter text. **List schools contacted:** Click or tap here to enter text.
Other organizations/groups contacted: Click or tap here to enter text. **# essays received:** text.

7. Legion Americanism Activity Support

- **Support Legion Baseball:** Choose an item. **# hours:** enter text. **# members:** enter text. **Total \$ spent:** enter text. **Total value In kind donations:** enter text.
- **Support Legion Oratorical Contest:** Choose an item. **# hours:** text. **# members:** enter text. **Total \$ Spent:** enter text. **Total value in kind donations:** enter text.

8. Other Activities Not Listed Above (Description, # members, # hours, Money spent, etc.): Click or tap here to enter text.

Submitted by: Click or tap here to enter text. **Unit Name/Number:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.