# Americanism American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan 2016-2017

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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. We are the leaders to Accomplish these goals. It is our legacy to do these things.

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

## 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 and to participate with the American Legion Americanism programs at all times.
- 4. To show pride and commitment in being a member of the world's largest patriotic Woman's organization; our American Legion Auxiliary.

## **OBJECTIVE #1**

Make all members knowledgeable of our flag history, how to have proper etiquette for The flag, 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. 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 are available at <a href="https://www.legion.org/vote">www.legion.org/vote</a> and <a href="https://www.kidsvotingusa.org">www.kidsvotingusa.org</a>.

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.

Learn about the American Legion Oratorical Contest and all the monetary incentives that are available to help get junior members to participate. Always be willing to help the chairman of the Oratorical Contest in any way.

# **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

## Objective # 2

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 these 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".

Always be 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 badge. The badges are not just for officers etc. This badge would give the public something visual and thane the member can start a conversation. Wear the badge to any function that you attend. Be proud to be an Auxiliary member and be proud to tell about it.

## AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

# Objective # 3 National Award

We need to increase participation in all age categories for the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?"

## 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.

Presented to: 30 students total, six from each division, one student for every class in each division.

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.



# AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST 2017 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 <a href="https://www.ALAforVeterans.org">www.ALAforVeterans.org</a> at the start Of September.

Essay Title: "How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?"

**Essay Classes:** 

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
П	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	Word count should
	Special needs	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/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, 2017		

## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

## **DONNA BALEY CITATION**

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 500 words. The District Chairman must send the winning entry to the Department Chairman to be judged. The winner will be sent on to National for Past Department President Donna Baley, Sturgis Unit 73, 1979-1980.

## **EVA SPAULDING CITATION**

To the Unit having the most outstanding Americanism Program in the Department. This entry is to be typewritten in narrative form and is not to exceed 500 words. Entries must be judged by the District. The District Chairman must send the winning entry to the Department Chairman to be judged, winner will be sent on to National. Named for Past Department President Eva Spaulding, St. John's Unit 53, 1924-1925.

#### MARY RIPLEY CITATION

To the Unit having the greatest percentage of activity in Americanism. Entries must be sent to Department Chairman. Named for Past Department President Mary Ripley, Sault Ste Marie Unit 2, 1931-1932.

# **DOROTHY PEARL PLAQUE**

A National plaque will be presented to the Unit that reports the Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program targeted to Children and Youth. 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 news articles.

## MILLION MEMBER CITATION PLAQUE

Presented too one Unit per Division. 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 eengaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the Unit.

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

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE

www.emblem.legion.org
www.legion.org/publications
www.ALAforveterans.org

**National Committee Members** 

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.

www.homeofheroes.com

## PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS

Labor Day- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of September
Patriots Day- September 11
National Anthem Anniversary- September 14
POW-MIA Recognition Day- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September
Navy Day- October 27
Veterans Day- November 11
Americanism- Month of February
Armed Forces Day-3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of May
Memorial Day- Last Monday of May
Flag Day- June 14
Independence Day- July 4