

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
2017 – 2018 PLAN OF ACTION**

AMERICANISM

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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.

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 Women'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 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 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.

Participate in the Promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs

1. 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.
2. Support American Legion Baseball
3. Support Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth

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 this participation in all schools by getting into the 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 badge. The badges are not just for officers, etc. This badge would give the public something visual; then 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:

“What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community?”

*****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: 30 students total, six from each division, and 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.

Essays are to be judged by Districts and sent to Department Chairman by March 25, 2018



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST^[s1]
2018 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 at the start Of September.

Essay Title: "What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community?"

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:

- D Class competing in _____
- D Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- D Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- D Completed essay cover sheet as first page of essay
- D Word count of essay _____
- D 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: _____ Americanism _____

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

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 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. Named for Past Department President Donna Baley, Sturgis Unit 73, 1979-1980.

EVA SPAULDING CITATION

Award presented 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. The winner will be sent on to National. Named for Past Department President Eva Spaulding, St. John's Unit 153, 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 3, 1931-1932.

Entries for Department awards must be submitted to the District Chairman for judging by March 31, 2018 and to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2018.

NATIONAL AWARDS

DOROTHY PEARL AWARD

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.

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 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.ALforveterans.org
5. National Committee Members:
Americanism@ALforVeterans.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