



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
Americanism Guide 2020-2021**

The Americanism Program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship.

What can we do?

1. Become knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays.

Ideas: Publish/furnish flag etiquette tips and copies of The Pledge of Allegiance, vote, host a flag disposal ceremony (invite the public), thank local businesses for flying our flag, provide/donate TAL publication "Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette" and comic books, "I Pledge Allegiance" and "Our Countries Flag" (see Resources), flag veteran graves, assemble/distribute Pocket Flags, meaning of the 13 Folds, present Blue/Gold Star Banners, stand for the National Anthem, appreciate patriotic songs & movies, post patriotic info in your personal, Unit and District Social Media, etc. Share your story of who made you eligible to join the Auxiliary.

2. Work to increase the participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

Contact schools (whether public, private or home school) or other organizations such as the Young Marines, Girl & Boy Scouts, Church Youth Groups, Junior Members, etc., to participate in our Americanism Essay Contest. Encourage your children and grandchildren to partake. This national contest is for students from 3rd-12th Grade and students with Special Needs. (Special Needs students are defined as those in, recommended for or on wait list for special education classes or a child having a disability that is not in special education due to lack of facilities). It's divided into six Classes (grade levels). The 2020-2021 Theme is: **"How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?"** Our Department offers certificates and monetary awards for the 1st Place=\$75, 2nd Place=\$50, and 3rd Place=\$25 winners in each of the six classes. (18 Awards). The 1st Place winner in each Class will advance and be forwarded onto the ALA Division Americanism Chair for further judging and awards. High School students placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd may want to include this award in their resume.

3. Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism Programs.

The TAL Programs are American Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, and Junior Shooting Sports. If these programs are offered in your area, try to support them by volunteering or hosting a fundraiser or making a donation.

Americanism Reporting

Mid-Year Reports-summarizes the program work of Units and is due to your Department Americanism Chair by December 15, 2020.

Year-End Reports-summarizes a compilation of all program work of the Units and Districts and is due to your Department Americanism Chair by April 15, 2021. Americanism Essay

Americanism Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements. For all Reports and Award entries (**except the Americanism Essay Contest & Unit Americanism Essay Promotion Award- See Page 3**) Units should submit entries to District by their deadline. Districts submit 1st Place entries to Department Chair by April 15, 2021).

Eva Spaulding Citation-Award presented to the Unit having the Most Outstanding Americanism Program targeted to Children and Youth. This entry must be typewritten in a narrative form and not exceed 1,000 words. Describe what/how your Unit did involving Children and Youth regarding Americanism and patriotism? Unit entries must be judged by the District. (Check with your District for their deadline). The District should send their 1st Place winning entry onto the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021.

Mary Ripley Citation-Award presented to the Unit having the greatest percentage of Americanism activities. This entry should describe/list what/how all of your Unit's Americanism and patriotism efforts and events. How many members and how many cumulative hours? Unit entries must be judged by the District. (Check with your District for their deadline). The District should send their 1st Place entries onto the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021.

Donna Baley Citation-Award presented to the District for promoting the Most Outstanding Americanism Program. This entry must be typewritten in a narrative form and not exceed 1,000 words. It may include no more than 5 pictures and 5 news articles. Districts should send their entry to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021.

Unit Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program. Award presented to the Unit that reports the Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program. Consider what efforts/events your Unit did regarding the Americanism Program at your Post, in meetings, in your community; for patriotic holidays, on Social Media, with children and youth and the general public. How many hours/dollars spent/donated, etc. What impact did you make? How did you promote patriotism? Did you promote the Americanism Essay Contest? How? Did your Unit promote the flag education and/or etiquette? How did you promote/celebrate patriotic holidays? Did your Unit support of the flag amendment? Did your Unit support any of TAL Americanism Programs (Baseball, Oratorical or Jr. Shooting)? How? This entry must be typewritten in a narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words. The entry may include no more than 5 pictures and 5 news articles. Unit entries must be judged by your District. (Check with your District for their deadline). The District should send their 1st Place entries onto the Department Chairman by April 15, 2021. Our Department 1st Place winner will advance to the ALA Division Americanism Chair for consideration of the Dorothy Pearl Citation Plaque.

Unit Americanism Essay Promotion Award-as an incentive for participation in the Americanism Essay Contest, this Chair will present 3 Units with a \$25 reward for having 1 or more essay(s) submitted. After promoting, receiving & judging the essay(s) inform me by March 31, 2021, that Unit _____ had this # of essays and you will be placed in the random drawing held on April 3, 2021. That's it, whether your Unit had 1 or 75 entries. Mail to: Margo Forrester, 936 Ellsmere St NE, Grand Rapids, MI or email msscottforrester@gmail.com, Attn. Unit Americanism Essay Promotion Award.

Americanism Essay Contest

***SPECIAL NOTE**-Americanism Essay Contest entries are due on a separate earlier date. Units judge entries for each Class and send their 1st Place entries onto District. (Check with your District for their deadline)! Districts judge the Unit entries and forward their District's 1st Place entries from each Class onto the Department Americanism Chair by March 30th.

2020-2021 Theme: *"How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?"* This writing contest is for students in 3rd-12th Grades and Special Needs Students, whether in public, private or home school. (Special Needs students are defined as those in, recommended for or on wait list for special education classes or a child having a disability that is not in special education due to lack of facilities). It is also open to youth groups, Juniors, ROTC and your children and grandchildren. The Contest can be presented by a teacher, a parent, or a member. An older student may be able to follow the directions themselves.

There are certificates and monetary awards from our Department for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place winners in each Class. The 1st Place from each Class will advance and be forwarded onto the ALA Division Americanism Chair. The Division 1st Place from each Class will receive a Citation and a \$50 prize and an additional \$50 donation in the student's name given to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund.

Entries must include the Americanism Essay Contest Cover Sheet included at the end of this Guide. Don't forget to check the word counts for the grade level. Unit winners are sent to the department Americanism chairman, following department guidelines. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all essays, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants retain a copy of their submission for their own records.

Resources

ALA National website- <https://www.alaforveterans.org/>

ALA Department of MI website- <https://michaloux.org/>

U S Flag Code-<https://www.legion.org/flag/code>

American Legion Flag & Emblem-<https://emblem.legion.org/> (for Flag Education DVD, booklet- Let's Be Right On Flag Etiquette, comic books, order flags, etc.)

Pocket Flag Project- <https://www.pocketflagproject.com/>



Americanism Committee Members

Margo Forrester, 936 Ellsmere St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 Contact Ph. 616 363-6688 or email mscottforrester@gmail.com (Unit 459 in 5th)

Pam Globke, 26340 Pennie St, Dearborn Hts, MI 48125 Contact Ph. 313 292-3877 or email basketpam@comcast.net (Unit 396 in 16th)

Ann Marie Stevens, 250 E Maplehurst St, Ferndale, MI 48220 Contact Ph. 248 259-7222 or email annmariestevens1964@gmail.com (Unit 14 in 18th)





**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2021 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) 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 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 the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families"*

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 student's grade level.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet 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, 2021



American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest Kit 2020-2021

Theme: "How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?"

Welcome Students in Grades 3-12 and students with Special Needs!

(Special Needs students are defined as those in, recommended for or on wait list for special education classes or a child having a disability that is not in special education due to lack of facilities).

Annually, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) hosts a National Essay Contest with the purpose of promoting patriotism. The contest is divided into 6 Classes that have increasing word counts to correspond with student grade levels:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 & 4	150-250
II	5 & 6	250-300
III	7 & 8	350-400
IV	9 & 10	450-500
V	11 & 12	450-500
VI	Special Needs Students	Word count should correspond w/ grade level

The ALA-Michigan presents awards to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winning entries in each of the 6 Classes (18 total). Awards are a Certificate and \$75, \$50, or \$25 respectively.

Additionally, 1st Place winning entries in each Class will advance and be forwarded onto the ALA National Division Chair for further judging and awards. The 1st Place winner in each Class will receive a Citation & a \$50 Prize. (Plus, an additional \$50 donation will be made in your name to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund.)

Students: How should we help/support/encourage our heroes (veterans, active duty military, & their families) health (physical and/or mental) & well-being? Who, What, When Where, How & Why should we do this? Keep track & record your word count of your essay. A 12PT font in Times New Roman or Arial Style is suggested, but not required. Include attached Cover Sheet.

*Inspiring Thoughts...Freedom Isn't Free, If We Send Them, We Must Mend Them,
Lest We Forget, Honor. Remembrance, PTSD; Never Forget, Respect, Sacrifice.*

Please submit your entry for judging by due date ___/___/___ to ALA Unit _____,
Chair name & Ph. # _____. (Aux. Units-for questions, contact ALA-Michigan
Americanism Chair, Margo Forrester. Ph. 616 363-6688 or mscottforrester@gmail.com)