

American Legion Auxiliary  
AMERICANISM  
Program Action Plan  
2021-2022

The Americanism Program is intended to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship so we may fulfill our brand promise by giving U.S. citizens a chance to take part in our mission by feeling patriotic and proving their support in an active, visible way.

**Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the American Legion Auxiliary for information.**

- Work with your Legion Post to increase respect for the flag in your community; invite the public to take part in a flag disposal ceremony.
- Participate in local patriotic holiday events.
- Volunteer to keep up the area around the flagpole in your community, by planting seasonal flowers and collecting trash.
- Teach proper handling and respect for the flag.
- Find and distribute assembled pocket flags to active-duty military overseas.
- Work with local schools to further education of the U.S. Constitution.\

**Encourage members to vote and to support amendments that protect the United States flag.**

- Encourage members to contact state and federal representatives, asking them to support the flag amendment.
- Encourage members to take part in Get Out to Vote.

**Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. The Theme for this year will be added as soon as it is able.**

**Americanism Essay Contest Categories are:**

Class I	Grades 3 and 4	150 - 250 words
Class II	Grades 5 and 6	250 - 300 words
Class III	Grades 7 and 8	350 – 400 words
Class IV	Grades 9 and 10	450 –500 words
Class V	Grades 11 and 12	450 – 500 words
Class VI	Students with Special Needs word count should correspond with Student’s grade level	

\*Students with special needs are defined as:

- Students in special education classes.
- A student recommended for special education classes, but who has not been admitted due to waiting list or various other factors.

**All entries must include the Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet found at the end of the Program Plan.**

**Unit Winning Entries are to be sent to your District's Americanism Chairman by March 15, 2022. District's winning entries are to be sent to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 30, 2022.**

**Promote Americanism Essay Contest:**

- Encourage your children/grandchildren to take part the essay contest.
- Contact schools, Boy and Girl Scout, and 4-H clubs about the essay contest.
- Encourage Junior members to take part in essay contest.

**Participate in the promotion of The American Legion programs.**

- Support American Legion Baseball
- Support the Oratorical Contest
- Support Junior Shooting Sports, which Promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth.

**Annual Reports**

Each **Unit chair** shall send a narrative report along with your annual report form to district chair by **April 15, 2022.**

Each **District Chairman** shall send a narrative report along with your annual report form to me no later than **April 27, 2022.**

**As part of your narrative report, please provide answers to the following questions.**

- How did you promote the Americanism essay contest?
- How did units promote the flag program?
- How did you promote patriotic holidays?
- How did units encourage support of the flag amendment?
- Did units support The American Legion Americanism programs? How?
- How did units promote Americanism in their community?

**\*PLEASE INCLUDE PICTURES & NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WITH YOUR NARRATIVE REPORT.**

## National Awards

### Unit Award: **The Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program**

- Award: Citation Plaque presented to one unit in each division (5)
- Materials and guidelines:
  - The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words
  - The entry may include no more than five pictures and five news articles.
  - Must attach the Award Cover Sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department and unit Americanism Chairman
  - **Entries must be sent to Department Americanism Chairman by May 1, 2022**

## Department Awards

**The Vickie Koutz Monetary Award:** to the unit reporting the most consistent Americanism program.

## Personal Awards

- To the Unit that sends the best report promoting patriotism in the community
- To the Unit that best shows their support for the Americanism Essay contest
- The Unit with the best narrative report

\*Department and Personal Awards will be presented at Department Convention – July 2022.

### Resources:

- See your national Americanism Committee page of the national website [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
- Flag education DVDs and flag etiquette booklets see Emblem Sales: [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org)
- Pocket Flag Project: [www.pocketflagproject.com](http://www.pocketflagproject.com)
- Capital building flags: To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your congressional representative or senator or visit his/her website. Flags are available for a nominal fee; four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.
- Follow us on Facebook:
  - American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
  - American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program
  - American Legion Auxiliary Department of Indiana

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Department of Indiana Americanism Chairman  
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**American Legion Auxiliary  
National Americanism Report and Award Cover Sheet**

Please note, your report will also be viewed as an award entry if this cover sheet is attached.

**Complete the following if you are applying for a member award.**

Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Full official unit name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of state where you are a member: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Member (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

National committee sponsoring award: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the award you are applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

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**For a unit award or to submit a year-end unit narrative report, please complete this section.**

Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Full official unit name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of department: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit president/chairman (**circle one**) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Above listed person's ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**For a department award or to submit a year-end department narrative report, please complete this section:**

Name of department: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of department chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ALA member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please see instructions on previous page about where to send this form.**

